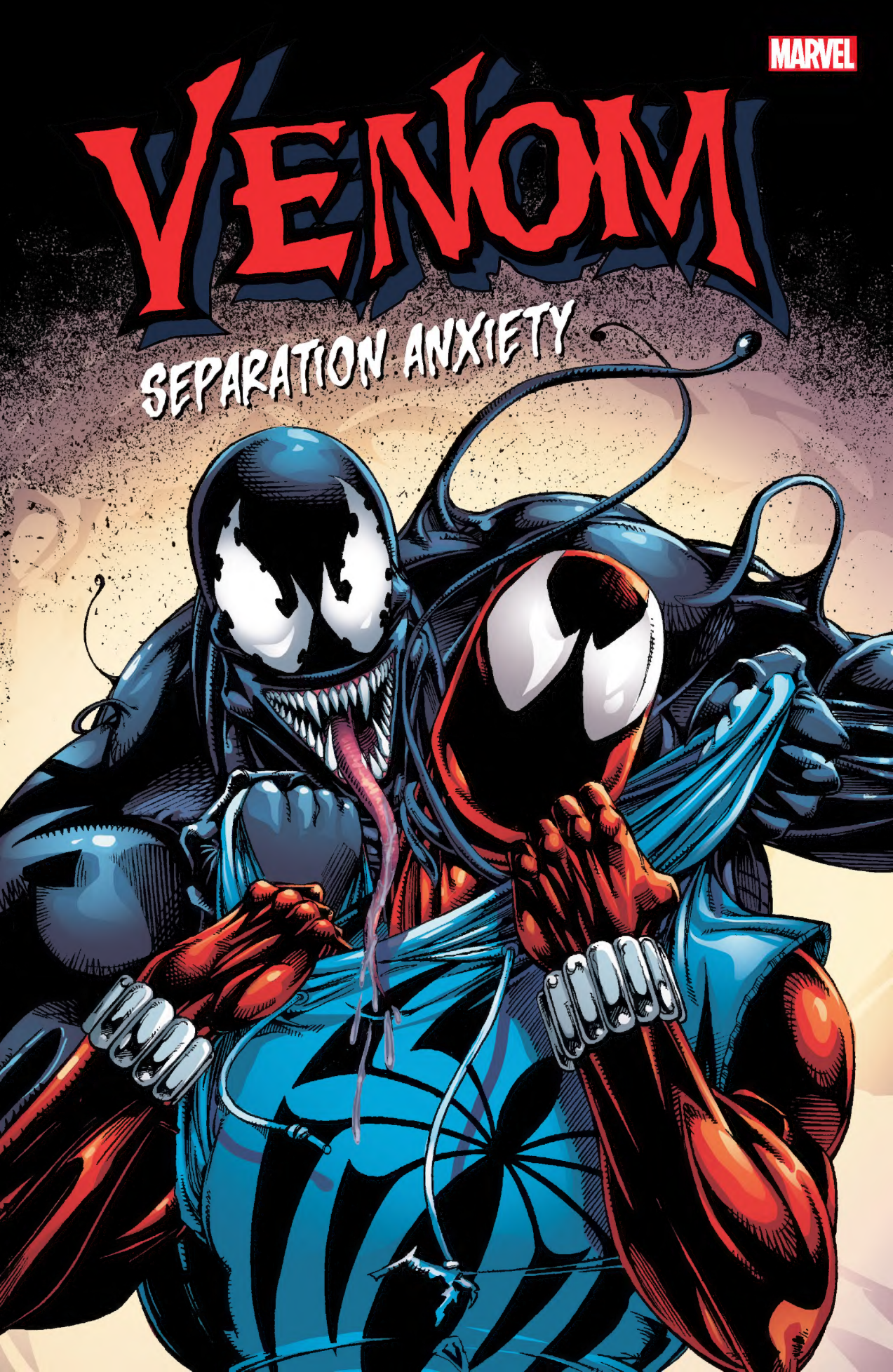
MARVEL
VENOM
SEPARATION ANXIETY

VENOM

SEPARATION ANXIETY

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VENOM
THE MACE
PART ONE OF THREE
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1
MAY
01163
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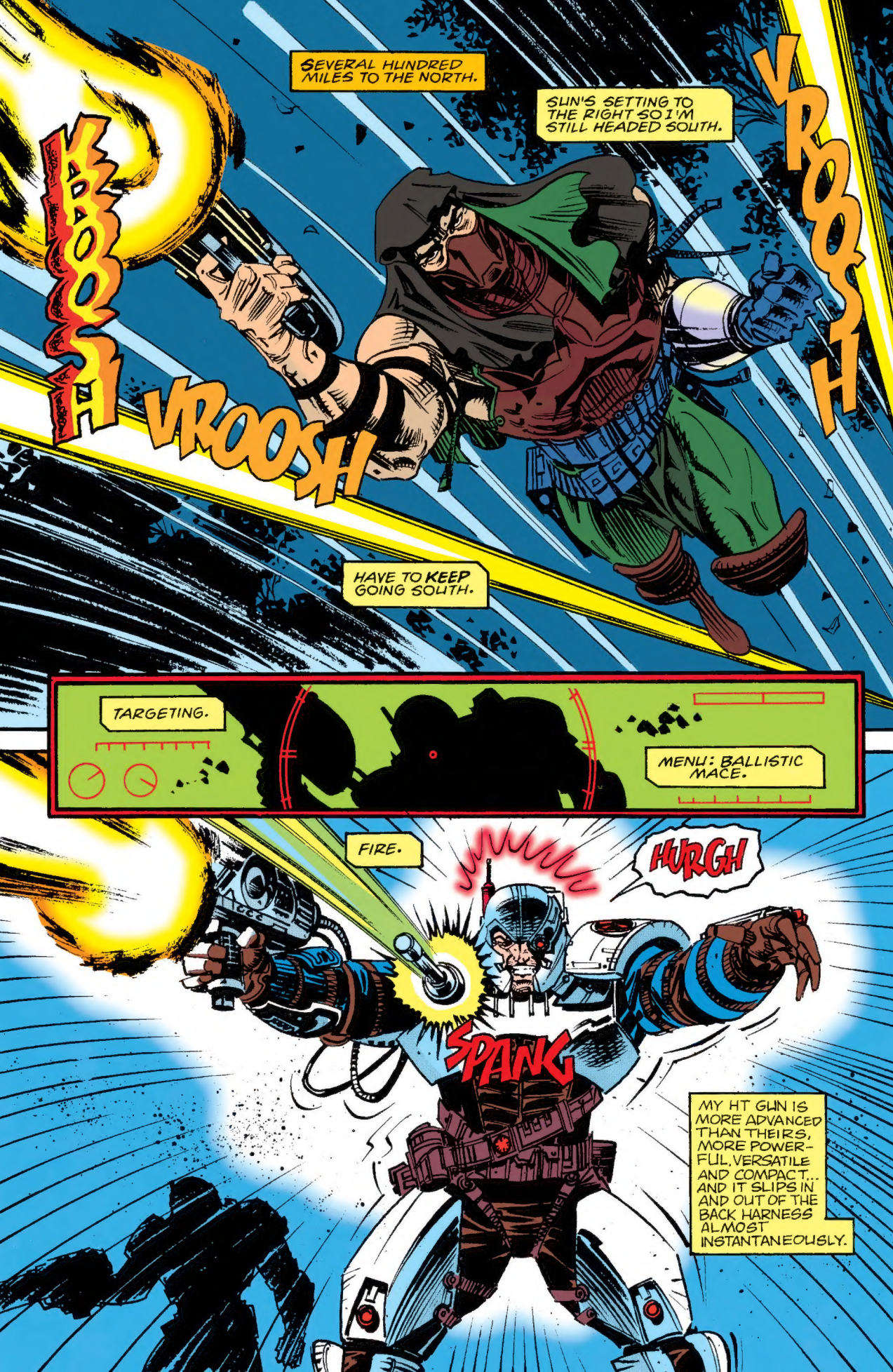
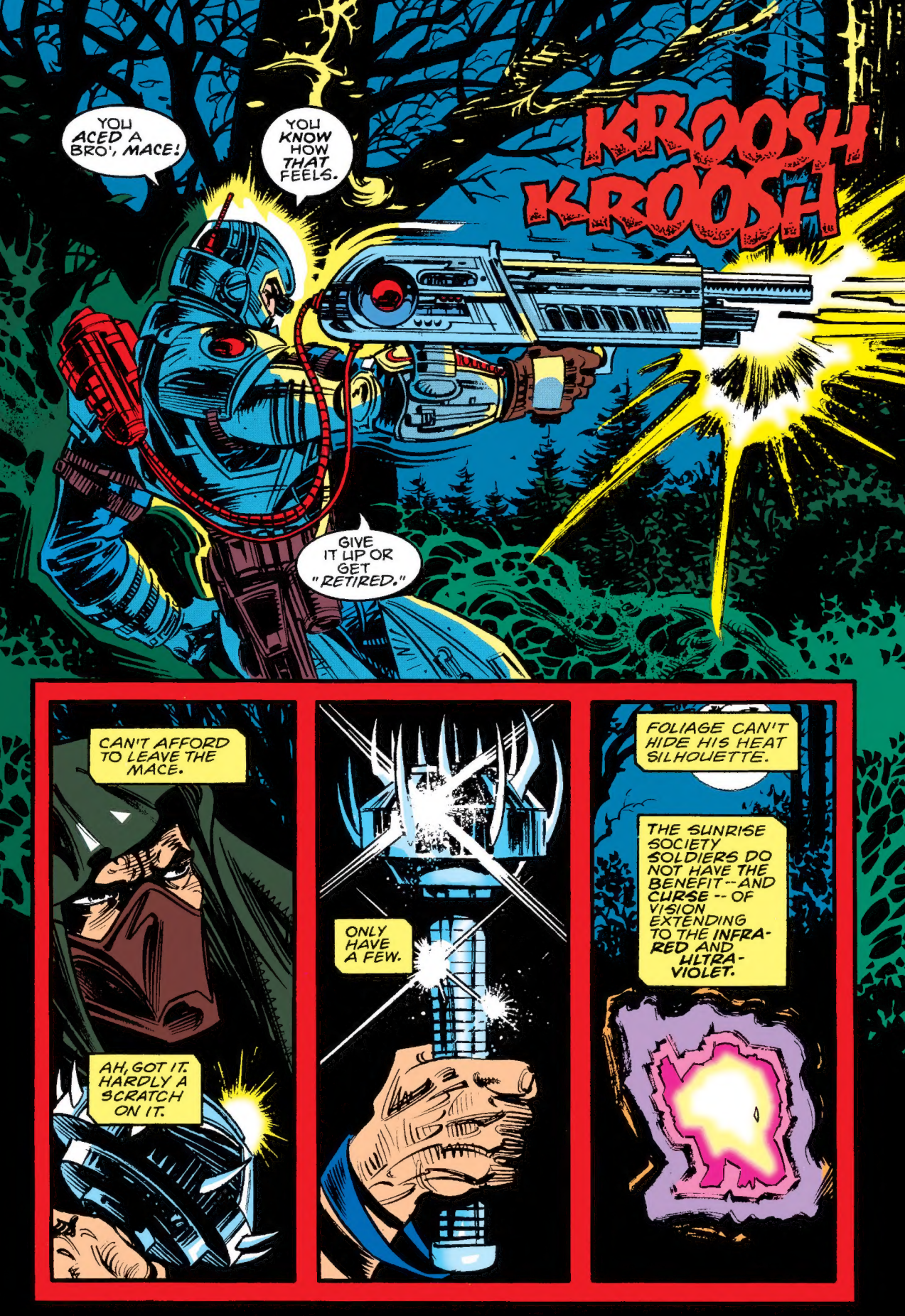
A SECLUDED ALLEY IN SAN FRANCISCO.
YOU'RE DEAD!
STAN LEE PRESENTS
VENOM in THE MACE
PART ONE: HARD HITS
YEOW!
CARL POTTS writer
LIAM SHARP breakdowns
BILL REINHOLD finishes
TOM SMITH colors • STARKINGS lettering
D. FINGEROTH editor • T. DeFALCO chief

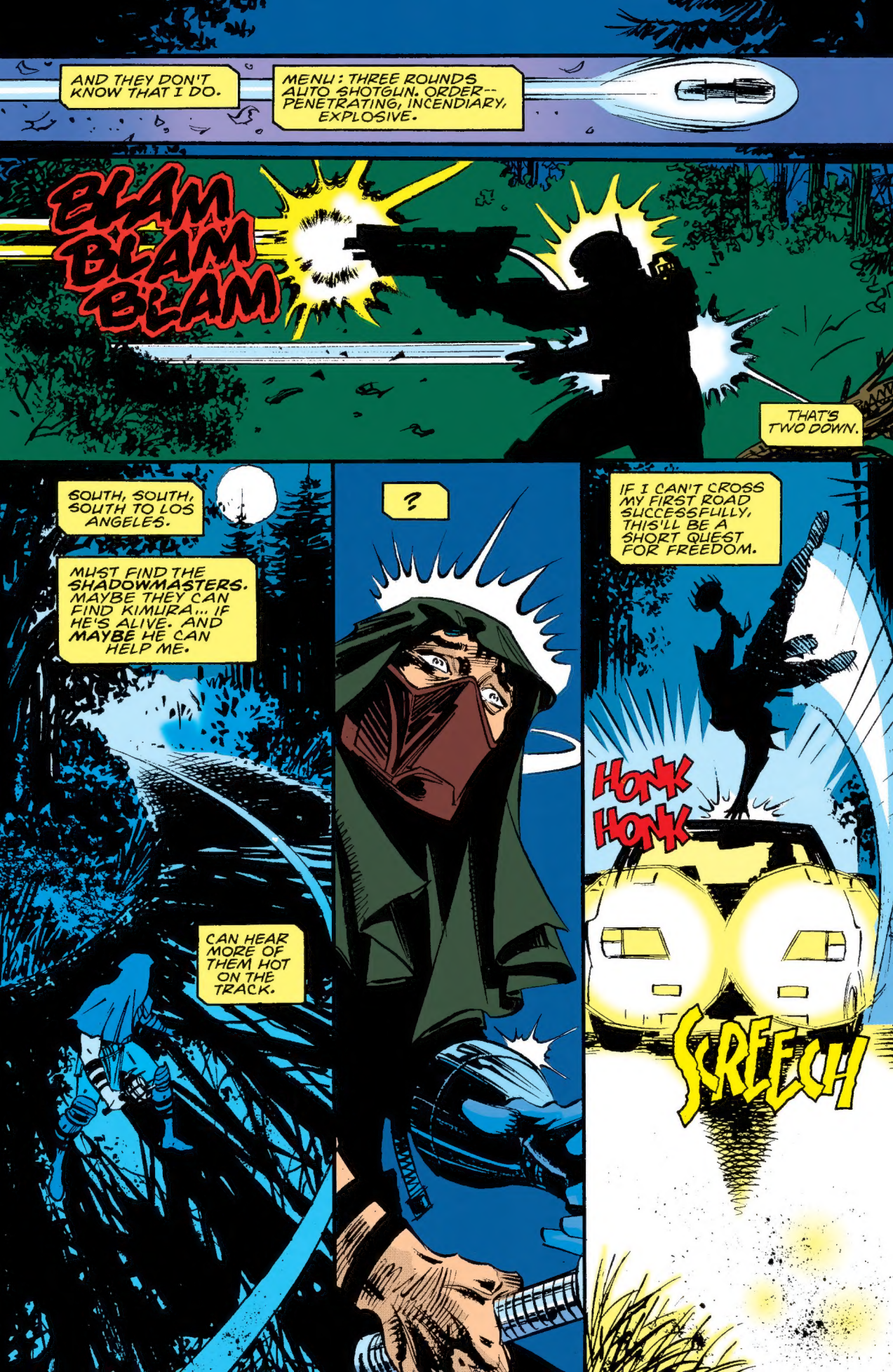
NO ONE THREATENS THOSE UNDER OUR PROTECTION...
...AND WALKS AWAY! THEY DON'T CRAWL AWAY EITHER!
GO IT, TO VENOM!
YEAH, THOSE #$*@$ WERE TRYING TO JUMP US!
WE WATCH OVER ALL INNOCENTS... AND THE CITIZENS OF THE UNDER-GROUND ARE UNDER OUR SPECIAL PROTECTION.
Oh, BUT YOU'RE NOT LISTENING.
I'M GLAD THAT GUY'S ON OUR SIDE!
PROTECT AGAINST THIS, YOU FREAK!

BLAM BLAM BLAM
THAKATHAKATH
SOME STING. SOME TICKLE... ALL ARE ABSORBED AND REJECTED BY THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE WITH WHICH WE ARE MERGED -- HERE, RECYCLE 'EM!
HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE CAN DO.
LIVING TENDRILS, STRONGER THAN THE STRONGEST MAN...
URK
... ABLE TO TAKE ANY SHAPE AND ENTER ANY SPACE -- INCLUDING LUNGS. TROUBLE CATCHING YOUR BREATH? GOOD, GOOD.
GLURG

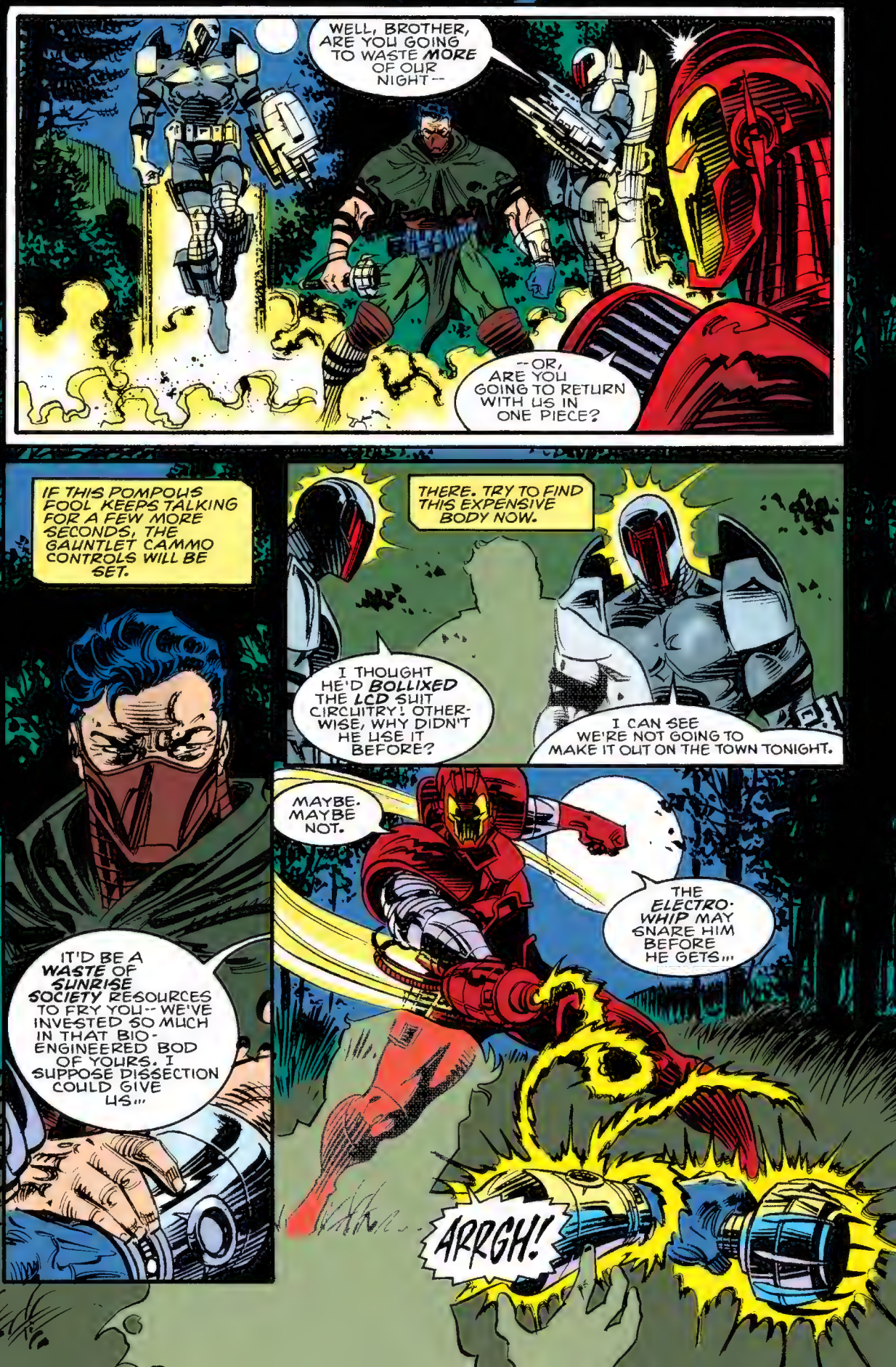
ADDED TO OUR OWN PHYSICAL MASS, THE TENDRIL'S STRENGTH CAN EASILY CRUSH...
KRACK
... WELL, THERE YOU GO. WHAT A MESSY BOY.
THANKS, VENOM. THOSE PUNKS SAID THIS WAS THEIR TERRITORY AND WE'D HAVE TO PAY TO WALK THROUGH IT.
THE TERRITORY HAS BEEN CLEARED OF HOSTILES, SAM.
... WE MUST "CHANGE" FOR OUR DINNER DATE WITH BECK.
YOU AND THE OTHER CITIZENS GO ON DOWN BELOW. ALL THIS EXERCISE HAS WORKED UP OUR APPETITE...


SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES TO THE NORTH.
SUN'S SETTING TO THE RIGHT SO I'M STILL HEADED SOUTH.
KABOOSH
VROOSH
VROOSH
HAVE TO KEEP GOING SOUTH.
TARGETING.
MENU: BALLISTIC MACE.
FIRE.
HURGH
SPANG
MY HT GUN IS MORE ADVANCED THAN THEIRS, MORE POWERFUL, VERSATILE AND COMPACT... AND IT SLIPS IN AND OUT OF THE BACK HARNESS ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY.


YOU ACED A BRO', MACE!
YOU KNOW HOW THAT FEELS.
KROOSH KROOSH
GIVE IT UP OR GET "RETIRED."
CAN'T AFFORD TO LEAVE THE MACE.
AH, GOT IT. HARDLY A SCRATCH ON IT.
ONLY HAVE A FEW.
FOLIAGE CAN'T HIDE HIS HEAT SILHOUETTE.
THE SUNRISE SOCIETY SOLDIERS DO NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT--AND CURSE--OF VISION EXTENDING TO THE INFRA-RED AND ULTRA-VIOLET.


AND THEY DON'T KNOW THAT I DO.
MENU: THREE ROUNDS AUTO SHOTGUN. ORDER-- PENETRATING, INCENDIARY, EXPLOSIVE.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
THAT'S TWO DOWN.
SOUTH, SOUTH, SOUTH TO LOS ANGELES.
MUST FIND THE SHADOWMASTERS. MAYBE THEY CAN FIND KIMURA... IF HE'S ALIVE. AND MAYBE HE CAN HELP ME.
CAN HEAR MORE OF THEM HOT ON THE TRACK.
?
IF I CAN'T CROSS MY FIRST ROAD SUCCESSFULLY, THIS'LL BE A SHORT QUEST FOR FREEDOM.
HONK HONK
SCREECH

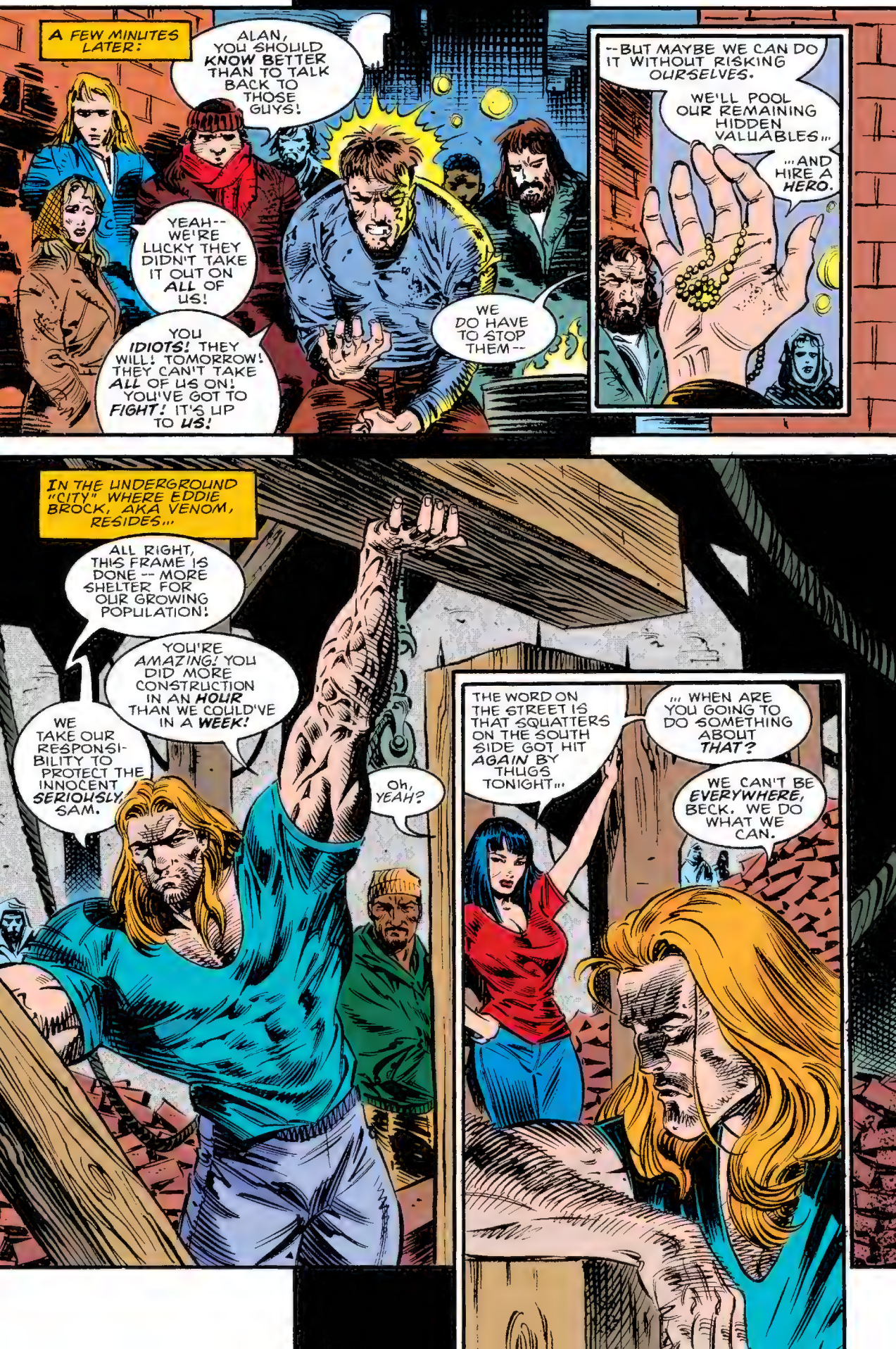
THIS MACE TWIT IS SCREWING UP OUR LEAVE TIME.
I TOLD YOU HE WAS TROUBLE. SHOULD NEVER HAVE THAWED OUT ITO'S GUINEA PIG. NO TELLING WHAT ITO DID TO THAT BOY.
WELL, NEXT TIME WE'LL CONSIDER YOUR POINT OF VIEW FOR A MILLI-SECOND LONGER THAN USUAL.
MADE IT TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE ROAD. ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING NEW WITH EVERY STEP I TAKE.
COULD USE A FEW MOMENTS TO REPROGRAM THE LCD CAMMO CONTROLS. Uh Oh.
DID NOT LAND IN THE RIGHT SPOT.
YOU'RE ERODING OUR HARD EARNED R AND R TIME, MACE.
THEY'RE TRYING TO SURROUND.


WELL, BROTHER, ARE YOU GOING TO WASTE MORE OF OUR NIGHT--
--OR, ARE YOU GOING TO RETURN WITH US IN ONE PIECE?
IF THIS POMPOUS FOOL KEEPS TALKING FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS, THE GAUNTLET CAMMO CONTROLS WILL BE SET.
THERE. TRY TO FIND THIS EXPENSIVE BODY NOW.
I THOUGHT HE'D BOLLIXED THE LCD SUIT CIRCUITRY! OTHERWISE, WHY DIDN'T HE USE IT BEFORE?
I CAN SEE WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT OUT ON THE TOWN TONIGHT.
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.
THE ELECTRO-WHIP MAY SNARE HIM BEFORE HE GETS...
IT'D BE A WASTE OF SUNRISE SOCIETY RESOURCES TO FRY YOU-- WE'VE INVESTED SO MUCH IN THAT BIO-ENGINEERED BOD OF YOURS. I SUPPOSE DISSECTION COULD GIVE US...
ARRGH!

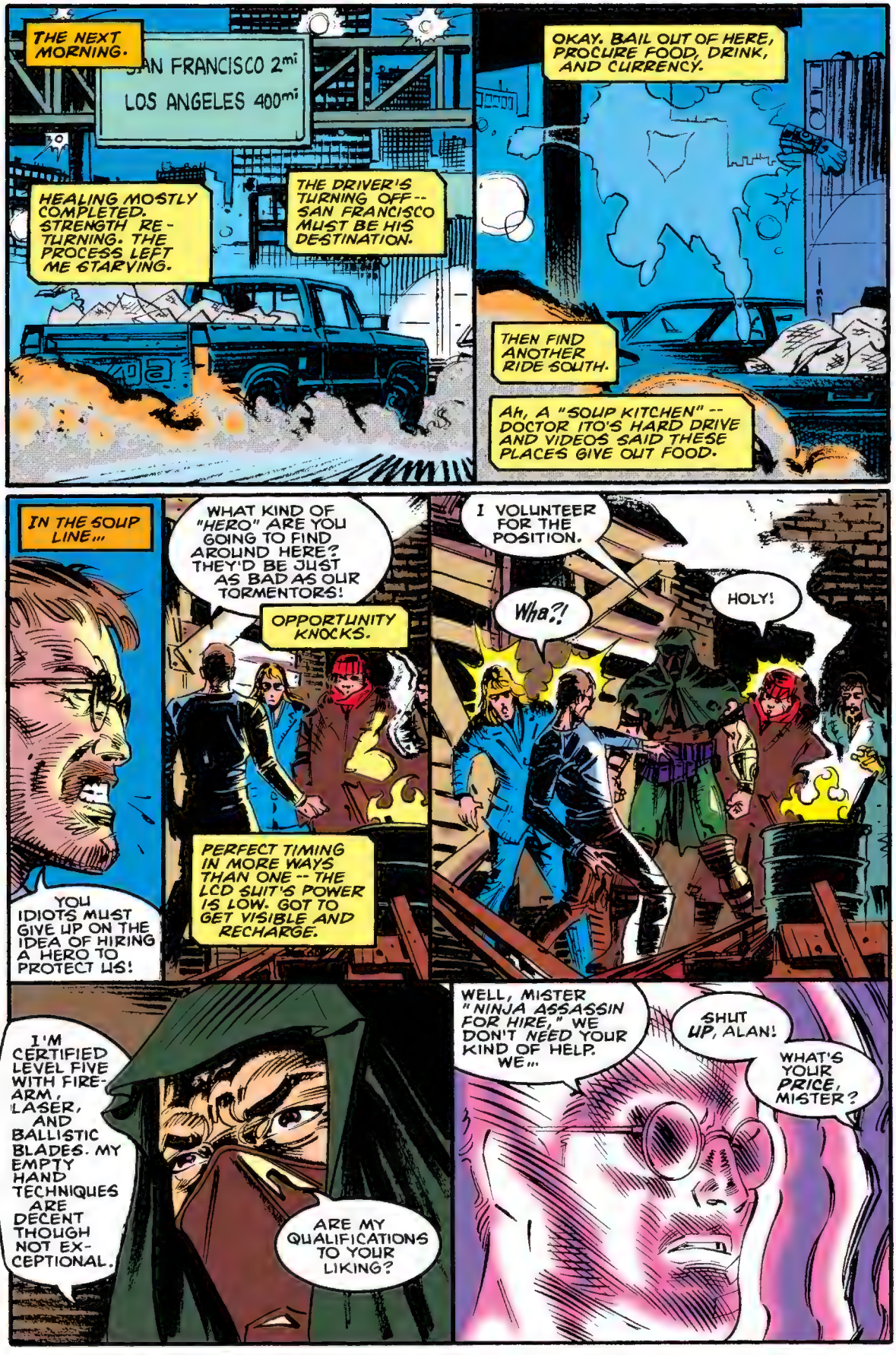
LET'S GET THIS PUPPY HOME, BOYS. WE'LL SHOVE THE PAPERWORK UNTIL TOMORROW.
THEN, THE DRINKS ARE ON ME! WHO'S THE DESIGNATED DRIVER?
INTENSE PAIN!
IT'S HUTCH'S TURN.
NO @#$^&^# WAY! QUIT TRYING TO BAIL ON YOUR TURN, GREGOR!

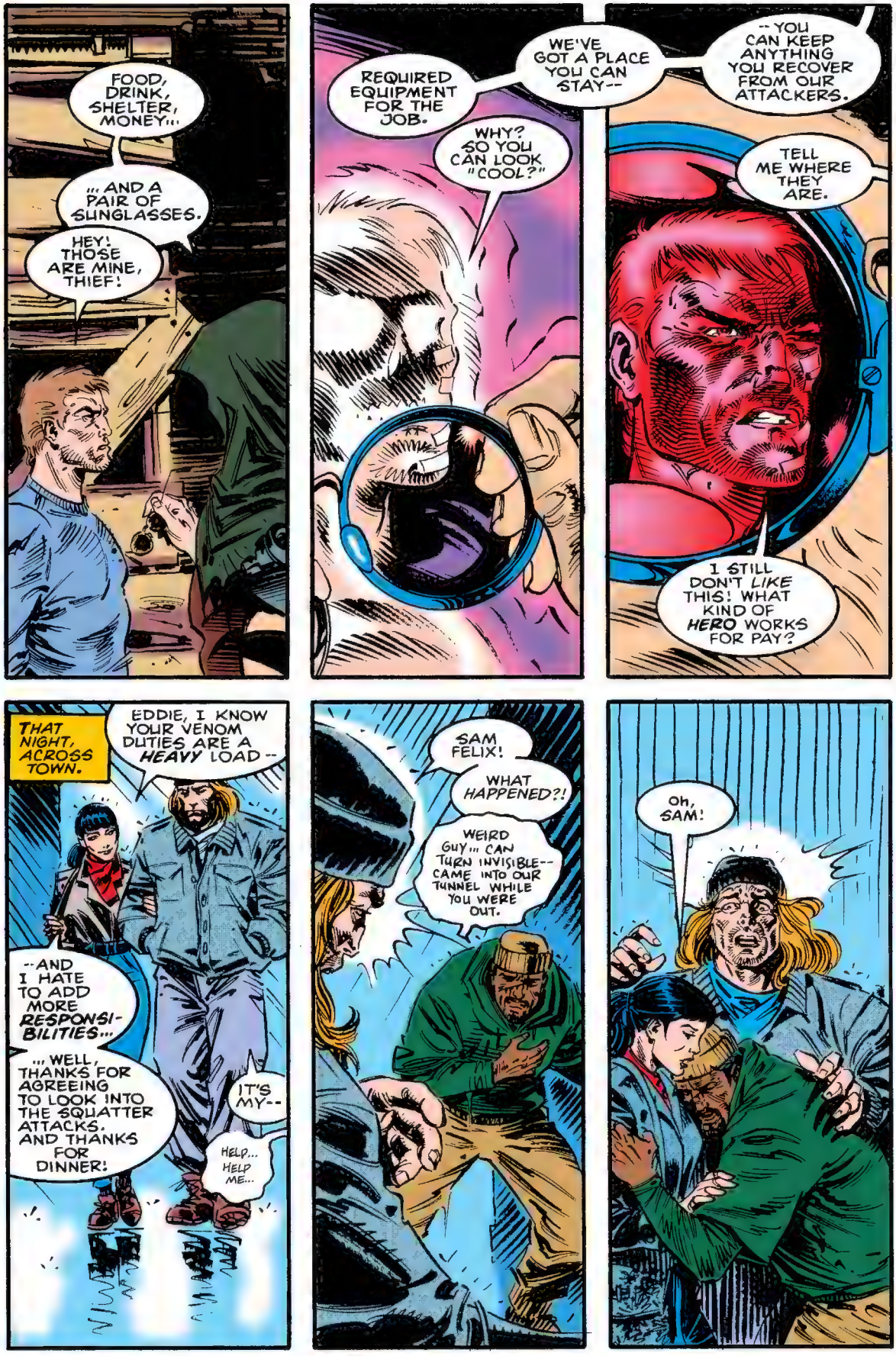
OUGH!
HOLD STILL, YOU FOOL!
WAK
HAVE TO HURT HIM MORE THAN HE'S HURTING ME.
MAKE HIM LOSE MENTAL CONTRO! OVER THE WHIP.
WUNK
ARRGH!
HE'S LOOSE!
TRACK ON HIS ARM -- THE WHIP DAMAGED ITS LCD INVISIBILITY CIRCUITS!
AND THERE GOES DINNER AT SERGIO'S.
VROOSH
VROOSH
THICK FOREST AND THE NIGHT HAVE GIVEN ME A FEW MINUTES.
WOUND PAIN MAKING... HEAD... SPIN.
HEALING... KICKING IN. DRAINING... ENERGY.
LOSING... CONSCIOUS...
HAVE TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT.

THAT NIGHT, IN A SAN FRANCISCO SLUM:
GOOD EVENING, TIME TO PAY YOUR WEEKLY "RENT!"
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT!
YOU'VE CLEANED US OUT!
NOT AGAIN.
BULL!
WE KNOW YOU'RE HOLDIN' OUT!
ulp!
YOU PUNKS GET THE *&@#$$ OUT OF HERE!
?
YOU DON'T OWN THESE BUILDINGS! THEY WERE ABANDONED!
WE MOVED IN AND MADE HOMES OUT OF THEM! YOU HOODS HAVE NO RIGHT...
WE GOT ONE WITH A BACK-BONE!
WE CAN CURE THAT!
YEAH! WE'LL DISMANTLE IT! TEACH THESE BUMS A LESSON!
WE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW NIGHT -- DON'T DIS-APPOINT US!


A FEW MINUTES LATER:
ALAN, YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO TALK BACK TO THOSE GUYS!
YEAH-- WE'RE LUCKY THEY DIDN'T TAKE IT OUT ON ALL OF US!
YOU IDIOTS! THEY WILL! TOMORROW! THEY CAN'T TAKE ALL OF US ON! YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT! IT'S UP TO US!
WE DO HAVE TO STOP THEM--
--BUT MAYBE WE CAN DO IT WITHOUT RISKING OURSELVES.
WE'LL POOL OUR REMAINING HIDDEN VALUABLES...
...AND HIRE A HERO.
IN THE UNDERGROUND "CITY" WHERE EDDIE BROCK, AKA VENOM, RESIDES...
ALL RIGHT, THIS FRAME IS DONE -- MORE SHELTER FOR OUR GROWING POPULATION!
YOU'RE AMAZING! YOU DID MORE CONSTRUCTION IN AN HOUR THAN WE COULD'VE IN A WEEK!
WE TAKE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT SERIOUSLY, SAM.
Oh, YEAH?
THE WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT SQUATTERS ON THE SOUTH SIDE GOT HIT AGAIN BY THUGS TONIGHT...
... WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?
WE CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE, BECK. WE DO WHAT WE CAN.

WE'LL FINISH OFF HERE AND THEN GO ON PATROL. IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH?
I'M SORRY, EDDIE. I... WE KNOW YOU WORK SO HARD. IT'S JUST THAT...
...THERE ARE STILL SO MANY PEOPLE SUFFERING UNJUSTLY.
YOU CAN DO SO MUCH SO FAST TO HELP.
PLIP
GEEZ, VENOM -- YOU DID IT AGAIN!
YOUR WEBBING SAVED OUR HIDES FROM A LITERAL TON OF BRICKS!
EDDIE -- YOU KNOW THAT VENOM FACE, IT...
...IT SCARES ME.
THE LAST THING WE WANT TO DO, BECK!
WE'LL RECALL THE SYMBIOTE FROM OUR FACE -- FOR YOU.


THE NEXT MORNING.
SAN FRANCISCO 2mi
LOS ANGELES 400mi
HEALING MOSTLY COMPLETED. STRENGTH RE-TURNING. THE PROCESS LEFT ME STARVING.
THE DRIVER'S TURNING OFF -- SAN FRANCISCO MUST BE HIS DESTINATION.
OKAY. BAIL OUT OF HERE, PROCURE FOOD, DRINK, AND CURRENCY.
THEN FIND ANOTHER RIDE SOUTH.
AH, A "SOUP KITCHEN" -- DOCTOR ITO'S HARD DRIVE AND VIDEOS SAID THESE PLACES GIVE OUT FOOD.
IN THE SOUP LINE...
YOU IDIOTS MUST GIVE UP ON THE IDEA OF HIRING A HERO TO PROTECT US!
WHAT KIND OF "HERO" ARE YOU GOING TO FIND AROUND HERE? THEY'D BE JUST AS BAD AS OUR TORMENTORS!
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS.
PERFECT TIMING IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE -- THE LCD SUIT'S POWER IS LOW. GOT TO GET VISIBLE AND RECHARGE.
I VOLUNTEER FOR THE POSITION.
Wha?!
HOLY!
I'M CERTIFIED LEVEL FIVE WITH FIRE-ARM, LASER, AND BALLISTIC BLADES. MY EMPTY HAND TECHNIQUES ARE DECENT THOUGH NOT EX-CEPTIONAL.
ARE MY QUALIFICATIONS TO YOUR LIKING?
WELL, MISTER "NINJA ASSASSIN FOR HIRE," WE DON'T NEED YOUR KIND OF HELP. WE...
SHUT UP, ALAN!
WHAT'S YOUR PRICE, MISTER?


FOOD, DRINK, SHELTER, MONEY...
... AND A PAIR OF SUNGLASSES.
HEY! THOSE ARE MINE, THIEF!
REQUIRED EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB.
WE'VE GOT A PLACE YOU CAN STAY--
WHY? SO YOU CAN LOOK "COOL?"
-- YOU CAN KEEP ANYTHING YOU RECOVER FROM OUR ATTACKERS.
TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE.
I STILL DON'T LIKE THIS! WHAT KIND OF HERO WORKS FOR PAY?
THAT NIGHT, ACROSS TOWN.
EDDIE, I KNOW YOUR VENOM DUTIES ARE A HEAVY LOAD --
--AND I HATE TO ADD MORE RESPONSI-BILITIES...
... WELL, THANKS FOR AGREEING TO LOOK INTO THE SQUATTER ATTACKS. AND THANKS FOR DINNER!
IT'S MY--
HELP... HELP ME...
SAM FELIX!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
WEIRD GUY... CAN TURN INVISIBLE-- CAME INTO OUR TUNNEL WHILE YOU WERE OUT.
Oh, SAM!

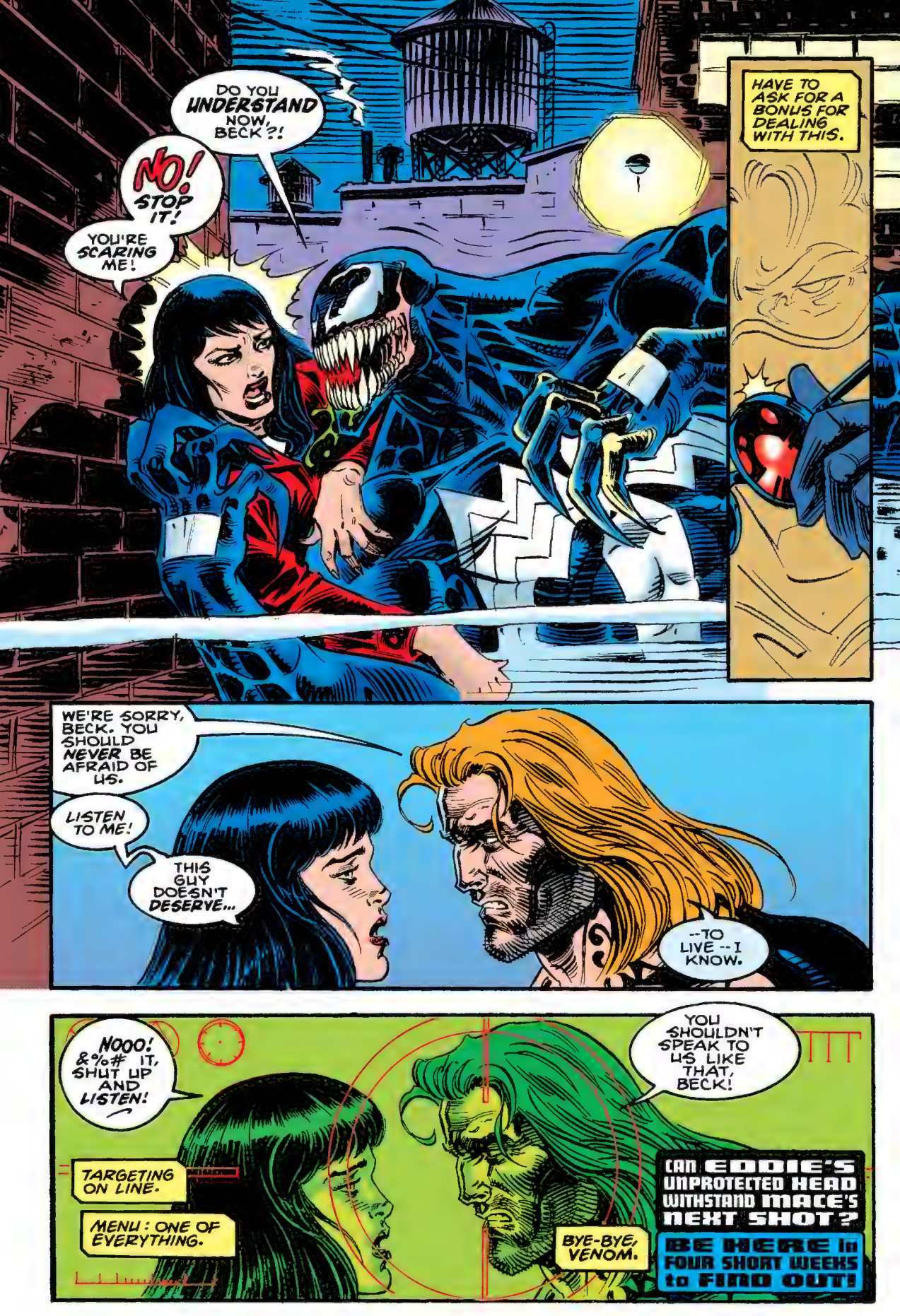
WE'LL TAKE HIM BELOW, BECK. YOU GO HOME. WE'LL DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
ARE YOU SURE?
YES. YOUR EYES SHOULD BE SPARED THESE SIGHTS.
MAYBE I WAS TOO HARD ON EDDIE.
HE CAN'T PROTECT THE WHOLE CITY.
IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY AND I SPENT MOST OF DINNER GIVING HIM A HARD TIME AND...
...I FORGOT TO GIVE HIM HIS PRESENT!
NOW TO BAIL FAST. THAT CAR WILL DO IF I CAN CATCH UP...
SCREEEEECH
WOAHH!
WUMP
WAM
CRUNCH
WELL, THANK YOU FOR THAT BIT OF EXCITE-MENT.
WHA--? WHO'S THERE?
YOUR ARM'S DIS-MEMBERED! Oh, MY GOD! GOT TO GET YOU TO A HOSP!--
IT'S ONLY A FLESH WOUND. JUST GET BACK IN THE CAR. I NEED A LIFT ACROSS TOWN.

DRIVE THAT WAY. NOW.
Uh, YEAH. SURE.
I BETTER FIND VENOM!
...AND THEN THEY DROVE OFF. AND BECK DIDN'T LOOK VERY HAPPY!
AN ASSAILANT INVADES OUR PROTECTORATE IN OUR ABSENCE...
...THEN KIDNAPS OUR... FRIEND!
WHOEVER HE IS...
... HE WON'T LIVE TO SEE THE SUNRISE!
Whew!

WHO AND WHAT ARE YOU?
I'M STILL WORKING ON THAT MYSELF.
PERHAPS YOU'LL BE MORE AT EASE IF I STOP THE LCD PROGRAM.
YAAHHG!
MAINTAIN YOUR GRIP ON THE WHEEL!
WHY ARE YOU KIDNAPPING ME? WHY DID YOU ATTACK THE UNDER-GROUNDERS?
KINDLY DROP ME AT MY DESTINATION AND I WILL EXPLAIN.
NOW TAKE A SHARP RIGHT. NO. THE ONE AFTER THIS.
EXCUSE ME! "NOW" AND "SHARP" WOULD'VE MEANT THE NEXT TURN TO MOST HUMANS!
POINT TAKEN, MISS...?
BECK. MS. BECK.
A GROUP OF POOR PEOPLE HIRED ME TO PROTECT THEM FROM SOME DANGEROUS MEN...
...SO I PERFORMED A PREVENTIVE STRIKE ON THE OFFENDERS AND RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY.
WHAT--?!
YOU MEAN THE UNDER-GROUNDERS ARE THE ONES ATTACKING THE SQUATTERS?
YOU CATCH ON FAST, MS. BECK.

THANK YOU FOR THE LIFT, MS. BECK.
I, UM -- I GUESS YOU'RE WELCOME.
NO...
...YOU'RE DEAD!
WHAT HAVE WE...
...HEEERE?!
WUMP
UNGH!
VENOM! STOP!
WE KNOW YOU HAVE A SOFT SPOT IN YOUR HEART FOR EVERYONE, BECK...
...BUT THIS MAN DESERVES NO MERCY.
HE INVADED OUR HOME! BEAT OUR PEOPLE! STOLE THEIR MEAGER POSSESSIONS!
NO! WAIT--
--LISTEN TO ME!
EVERY-THING STILL IN WORKING ORDER.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH SUCH SCUM!
WAK
ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T HURT INNOCENTS AGAIN!
MAYBE NOT WORKING FOR LONG.
KRAK
STAY CONSCIOUS! STAY CONSCIOUS!


DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, BECK?!
NO! STOP IT!
YOU'RE SCARING ME!
HAVE TO ASK FOR A BONUS FOR DEALING WITH THIS.
WE'RE SORRY, BECK. YOU SHOULD NEVER BE AFRAID OF US.
LISTEN TO ME!
THIS GUY DOESN'T DESERVE...
--TO LIVE -- I KNOW.
NOOO! &%# IT, SHUT UP AND LISTEN!
TARGETING ON LINE.
MENU: ONE OF EVERYTHING.
YOU SHOULDN'T SPEAK TO US LIKE THAT, BECK!
BYE-BYE, VENOM.
CAN EDDIE'S UNPROTECTED HEAD WITHSTAND MACE'S NEXT SHOT?
BE HERE in FOUR SHORT WEEKS to FIND OUT!

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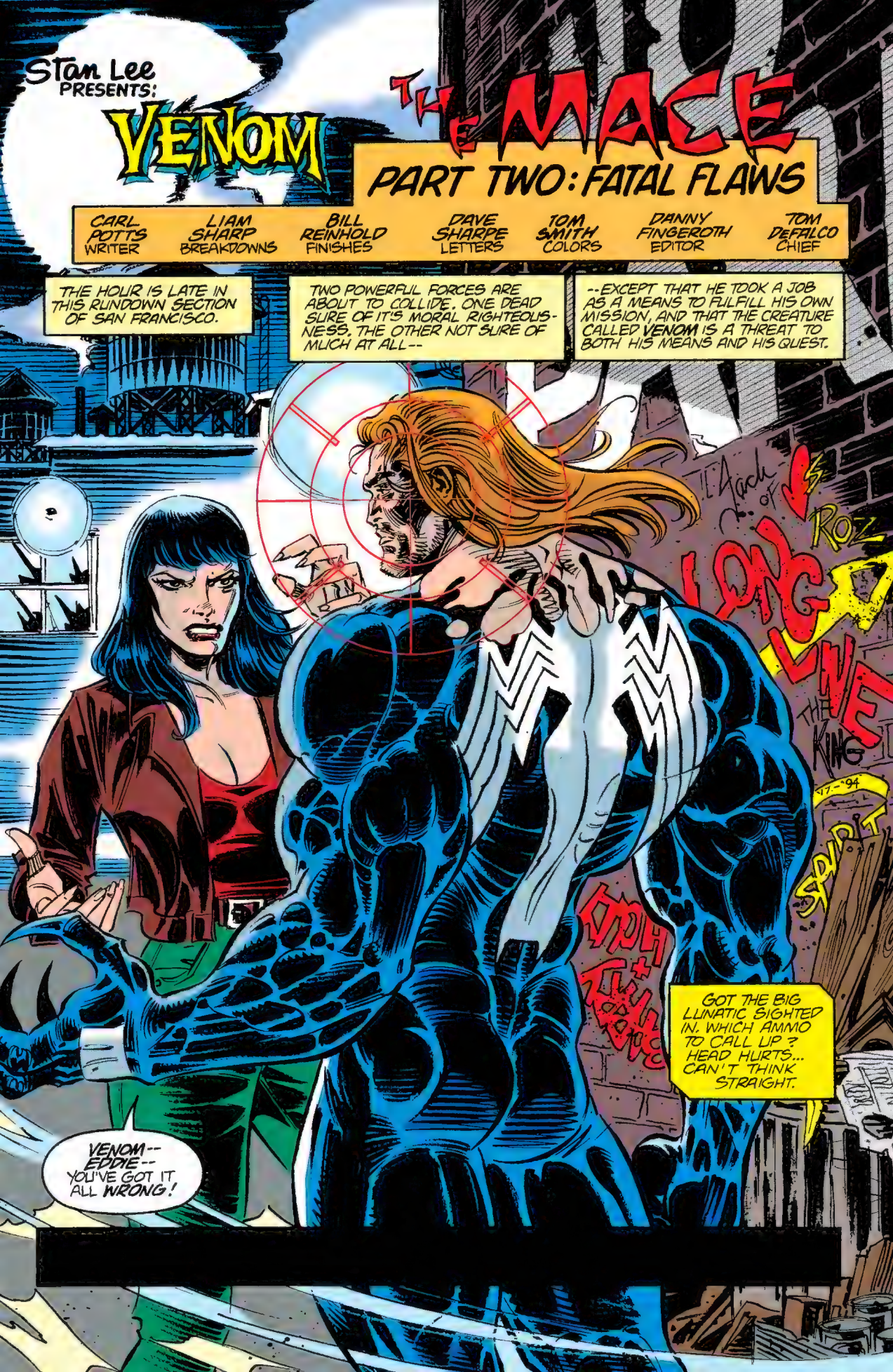


Stan Lee PRESENTS:

VENOM THE MACE

PART TWO: FATAL FLAWS

CARL POTTS WRITER | LIAM SHARP BREAKDOWNS | BILL REINHOLD FINISHES | DAVE SHARPE LETTERS | TOM SMITH COLORS | DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR | TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

THE HOUR IS LATE IN THIS RUNDOWN SECTION OF SAN FRANCISCO.

TWO POWERFUL FORCES ARE ABOUT TO COLLIDE. ONE DEAD SURE OF IT'S MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS. THE OTHER NOT SURE OF MUCH AT ALL--

--EXCEPT THAT HE TOOK A JOB AS A MEANS TO FULFILL HIS OWN MISSION, AND THAT THE CREATURE CALLED **VENOM** IS A THREAT TO BOTH HIS MEANS AND HIS QUEST.

GOT THE BIG LUNATIC SIGHTED IN. WHICH AMMO TO CALL UP? HEAD HURTS... CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT.

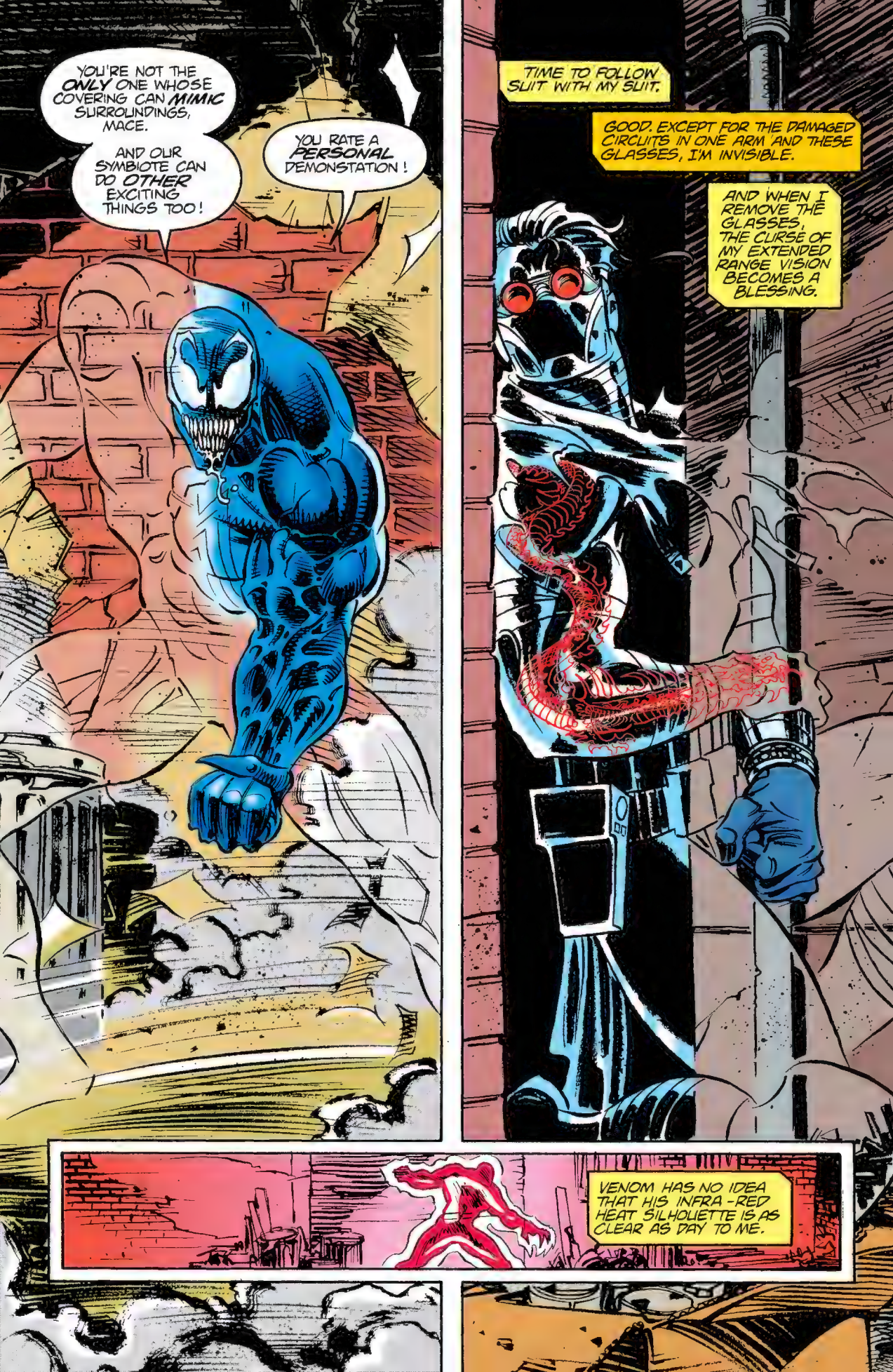
VENOM-- EDDIE-- YOU'VE GOT IT ALL **WRONG**!

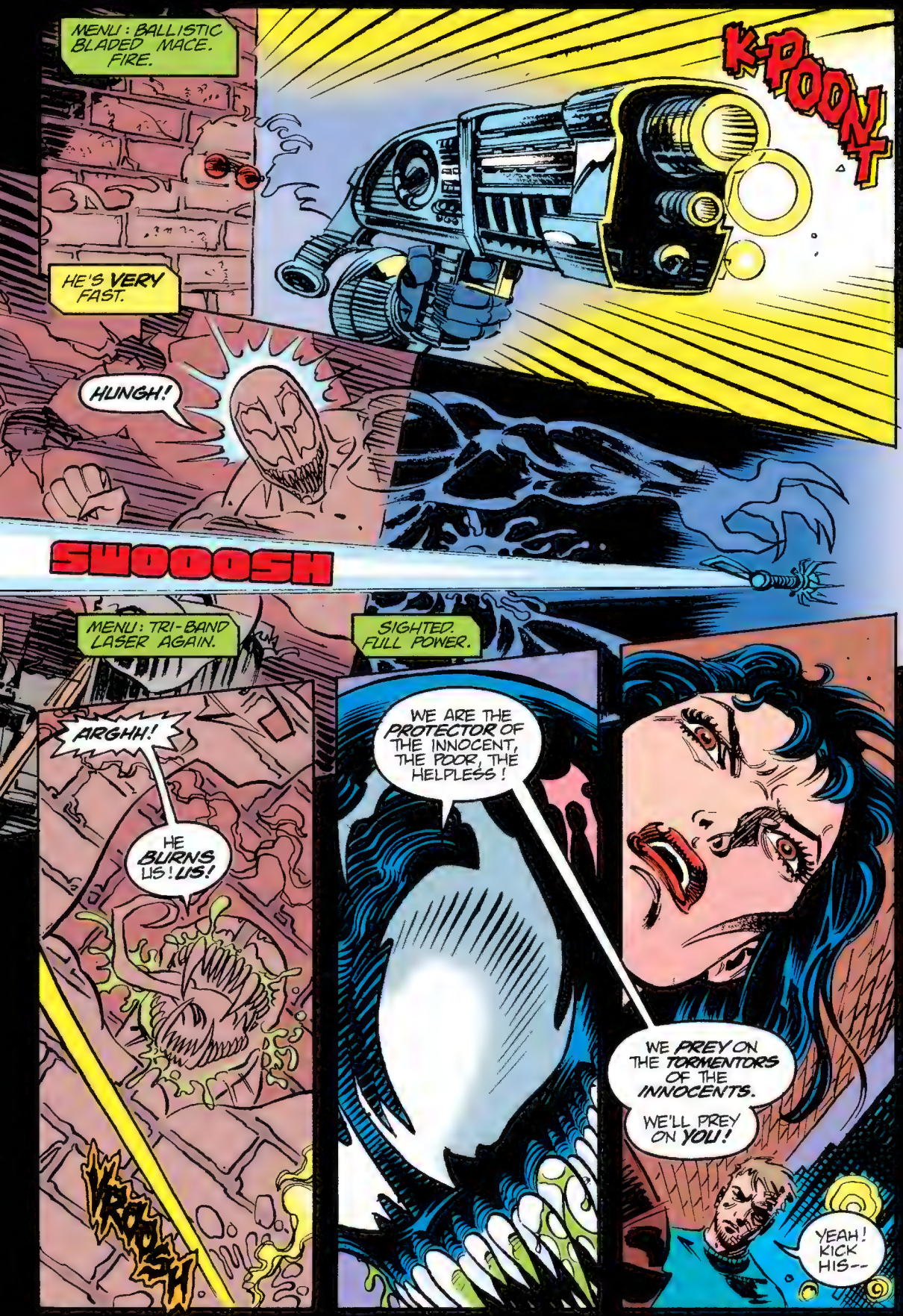
[redacted]

IF YOU'D STOP THINKING WITH YOUR, YOUR...YOUR BICEPS FOR A MINUTE...
...YOU'D REALIZE THAT...
THAT LAST BLOW FROM VENOM SCRAMBLED MORE THAN MY GREY MATTER. THE LCD CLOAK'S CAMMO CIRCUITS NEED A MOMENT TO REBOOT.
I'M VISIBLE. IT SHOULDN'T MATTER IN A SECOND.
...THIS "MACE" GUY IS...
MENU: TRI-BAND LASER. 100% POWER.
...ABOUT TO BLOW YOU AWAY!
DUCK!
VAKROOSH
VAKROOSH
WE THANK YOU, BECK.
YOU WERE SAYING?
FIRE. TWO BURSTS.

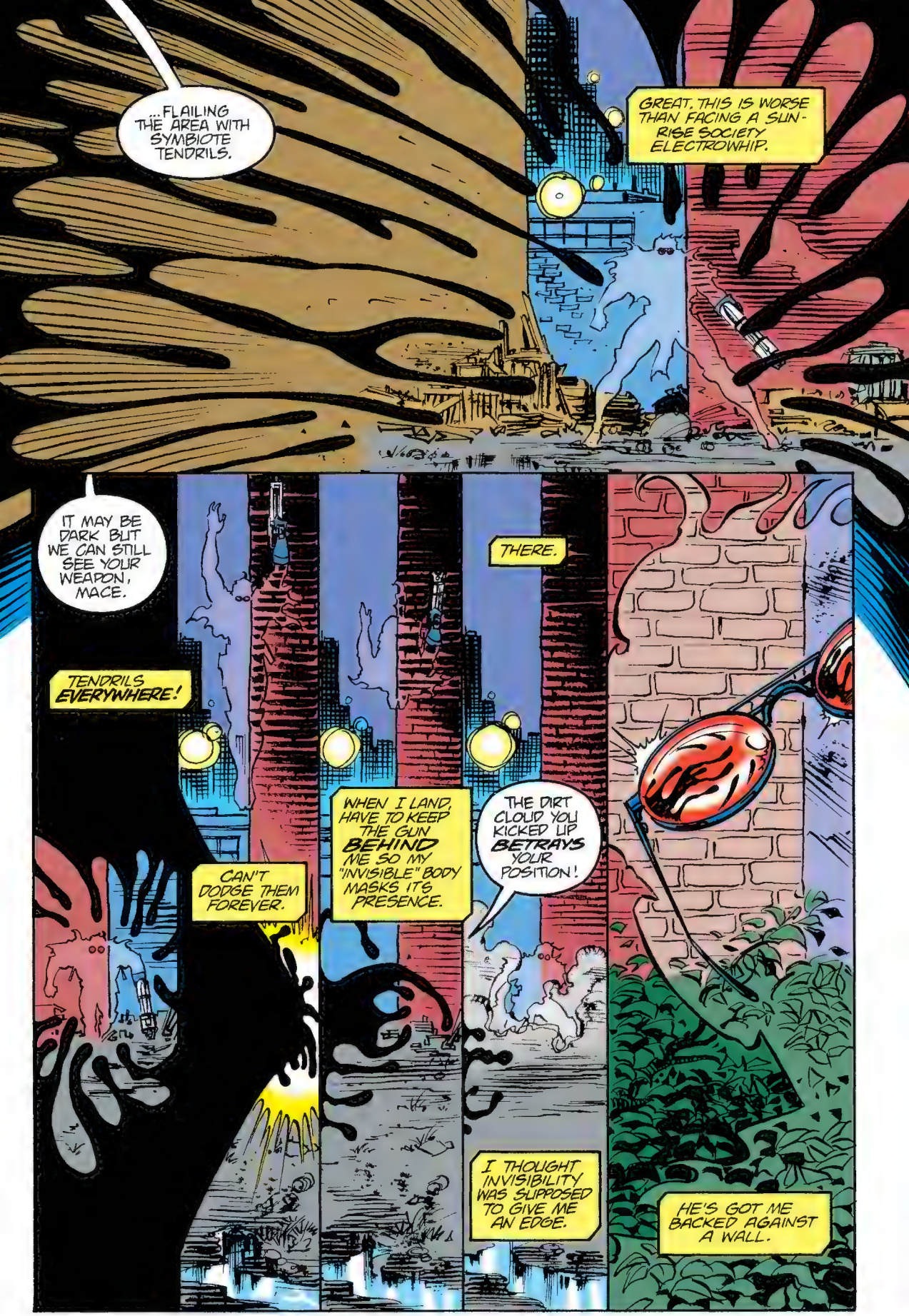
MENU : AUTO SHOTGUN 12 GAUGE BUCK. THREE ROUNDS.
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
ARGHH!
HERE IS YOUR FIRST LESSON ABOUT US, MACE...
...FIREARMS ARE USELESS. LEAD DOES NOT PENETRATE OUR SYMBIOTE.
GEEZ, HE ALMOST NAILED ME! ALAN, YOU OKAY?
YEAH, NO THANKS TO THE "HERO" WE HIRED TO PROTECT US!
HE LEADS THIS VENOM MONSTER TO OUR HOMESTEAD AND THEN ALMOST SHOOTS US!
BIG HERO!

YOU PREYED ON THOSE UNDER OUR PROTECTION, MACE!
KA-RAK!
SO WE WILL PREY ON YOU!
WE MUST DRIVE HIM AWAY FROM THESE BYSTANDERS. THERE ARE TOO MANY OF US TO SHIELD.
WAK!
THAT WAS CLOSE.
THIS THING'S TOO POWERFUL FOR A CONTROLLED FIGHT.
I'LL LEAD HIM AWAY FROM MY CLIENT SQUATTERS BEFORE ESCALATING. KEEP THEM SAFE.
OTHERWISE, I'LL HAVE TROUBLE COLLECTING MY FOOD AND LODGING FEE.

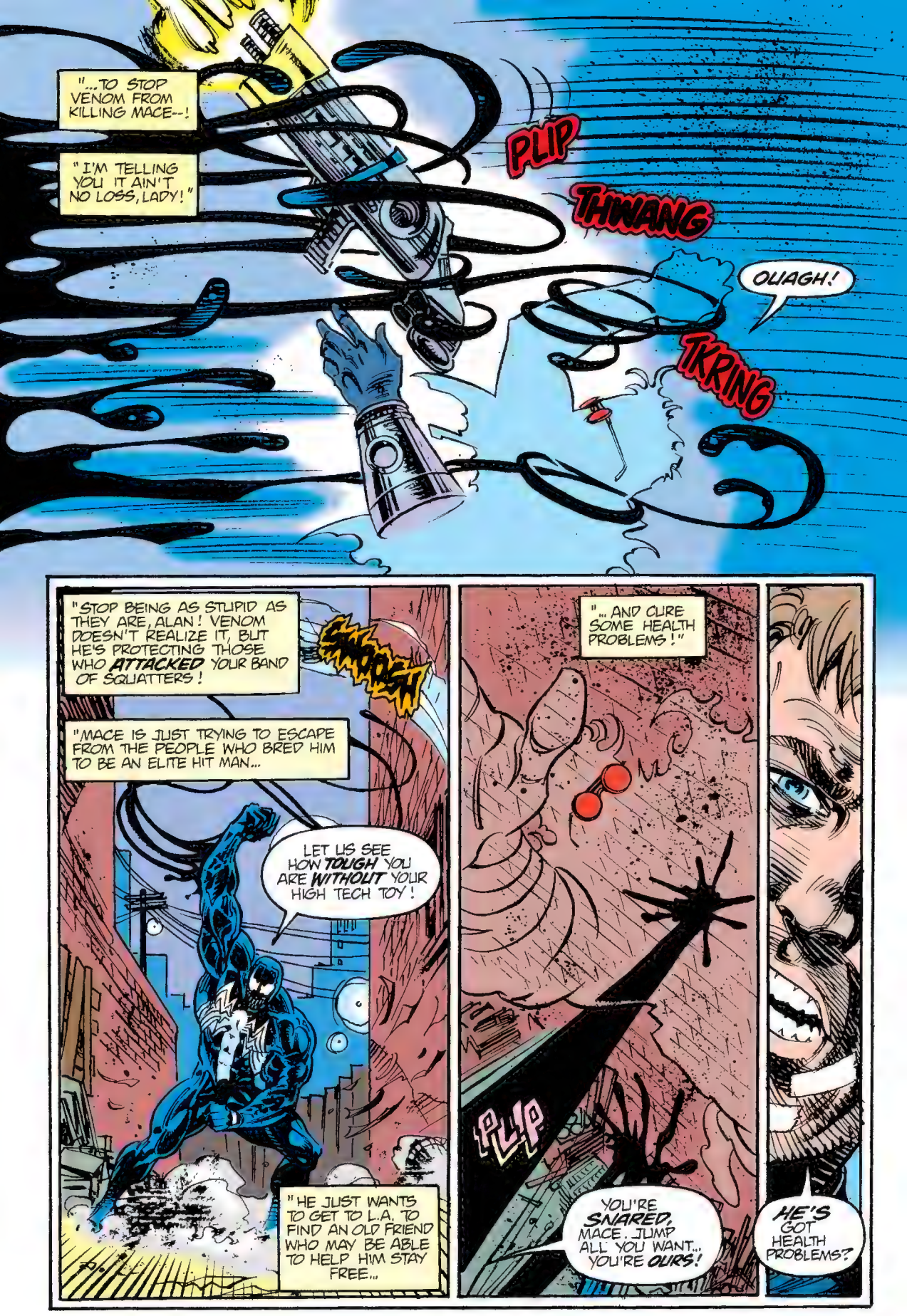

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHOSE COVERING CAN MIMIC SURROUNDINGS, MACE.
AND OUR SYMBIOTE CAN DO OTHER EXCITING THINGS TOO!
YOU RATE A PERSONAL DEMONSTATION!
TIME TO FOLLOW SUIT WITH MY SUIT.
GOOD. EXCEPT FOR THE DAMAGED CIRCUITS IN ONE ARM AND THESE GLASSES, I'M INVISIBLE.
AND WHEN I REMOVE THE GLASSES, THE CURSE OF MY EXTENDED RANGE VISION BECOMES A BLESSING.
VENOM HAS NO IDEA THAT HIS INFRA-RED HEAT SILHOUETTE IS AS CLEAR AS DAY TO ME.

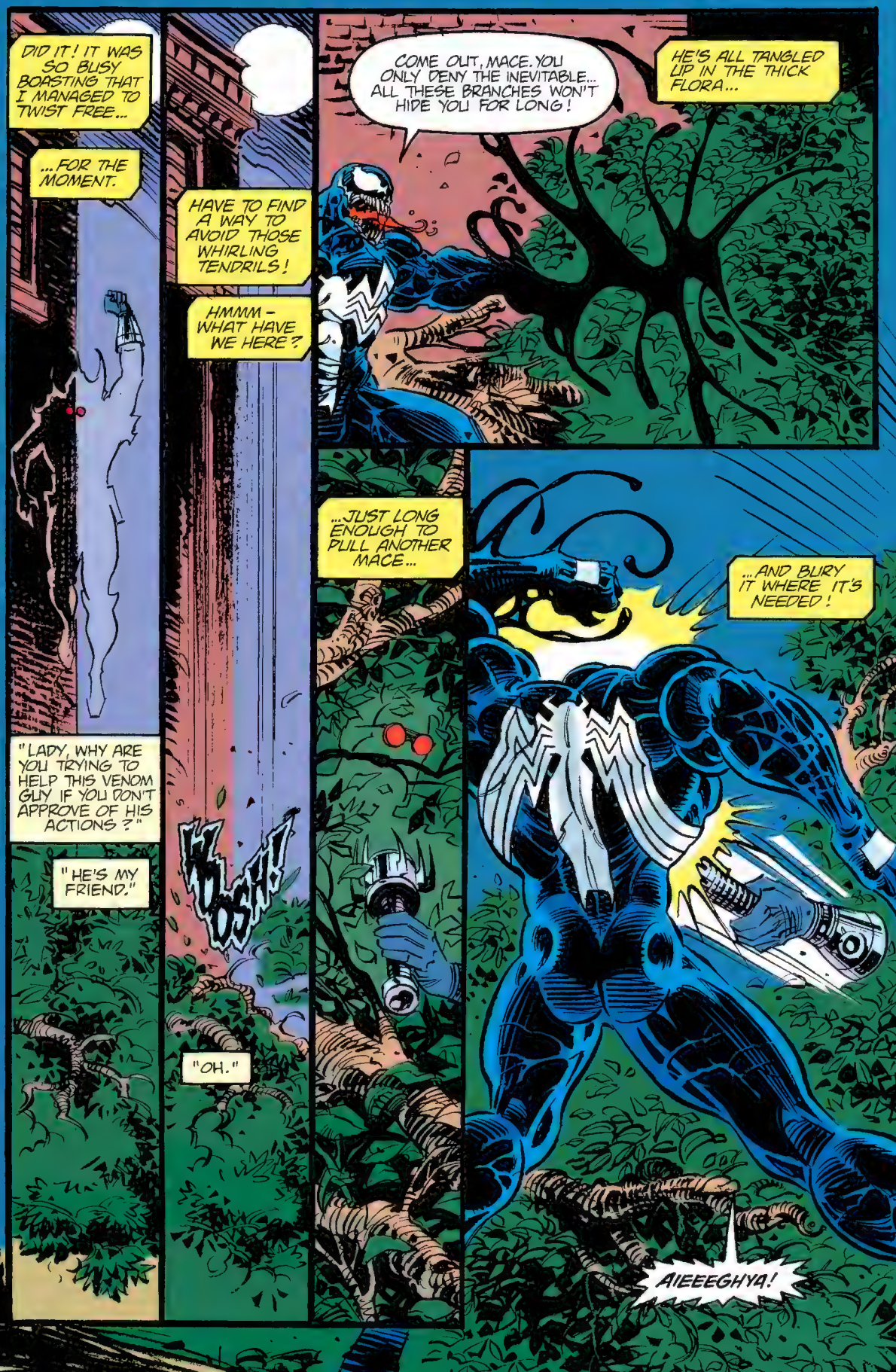

MENU: BALLISTIC BLADED MACE. FIRE.
K-POONT
HE'S VERY FAST.
HUNGH!
SWOOOSH
MENU: TRI-BAND LASER AGAIN.
SIGHTED. FULL POWER.
ARGHH!
HE BURNS US! US!
WE ARE THE PROTECTOR OF THE INNOCENT, THE POOR, THE HELPLESS!
WE PREY ON THE TORMENTORS OF THE INNOCENTS.
WE'LL PREY ON YOU!
YEAH! KICK HIS--

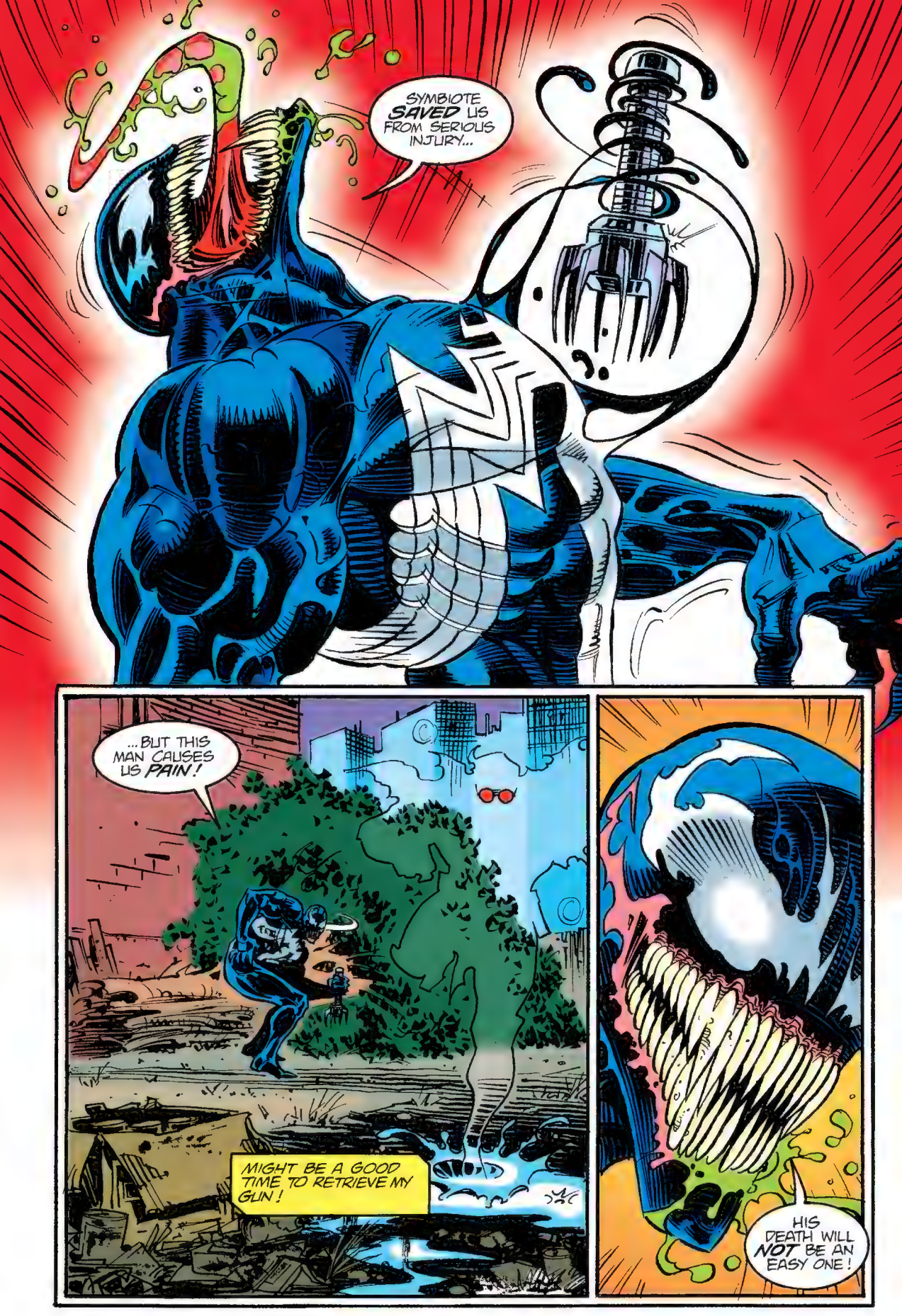
&^%#!
THEY'RE BOTH BEHAVING LIKE IDIOTS!
HAVE TO TRY AND TALK SENSE INTO THEM... HAVE TO STOP THIS INSANITY.
STOP IT ?! I WANT TO SEE VENOM RIP MACE TO SHREDS!
I THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE HIRED MACE FOR PROTECTION!
I DIDN'T. HE'S NO HERO. HE'S A MERC--IN IT FOR THE PAY! VENOM FIGHTS FOR WHAT'S RIGHT WITHOUT REGARD FOR SELF GAIN.
I USED TO THINK SO, TOO.
OUR CHAMELEON EFFECT DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK ON THIS ONE FOR SOME REASON.
SO, NO REASON TO MAINTAIN THE EFFORT.
BUT OUR OPPONENT IS STILL INVISIBLE TO US. WE WILL FIND HIM BY...

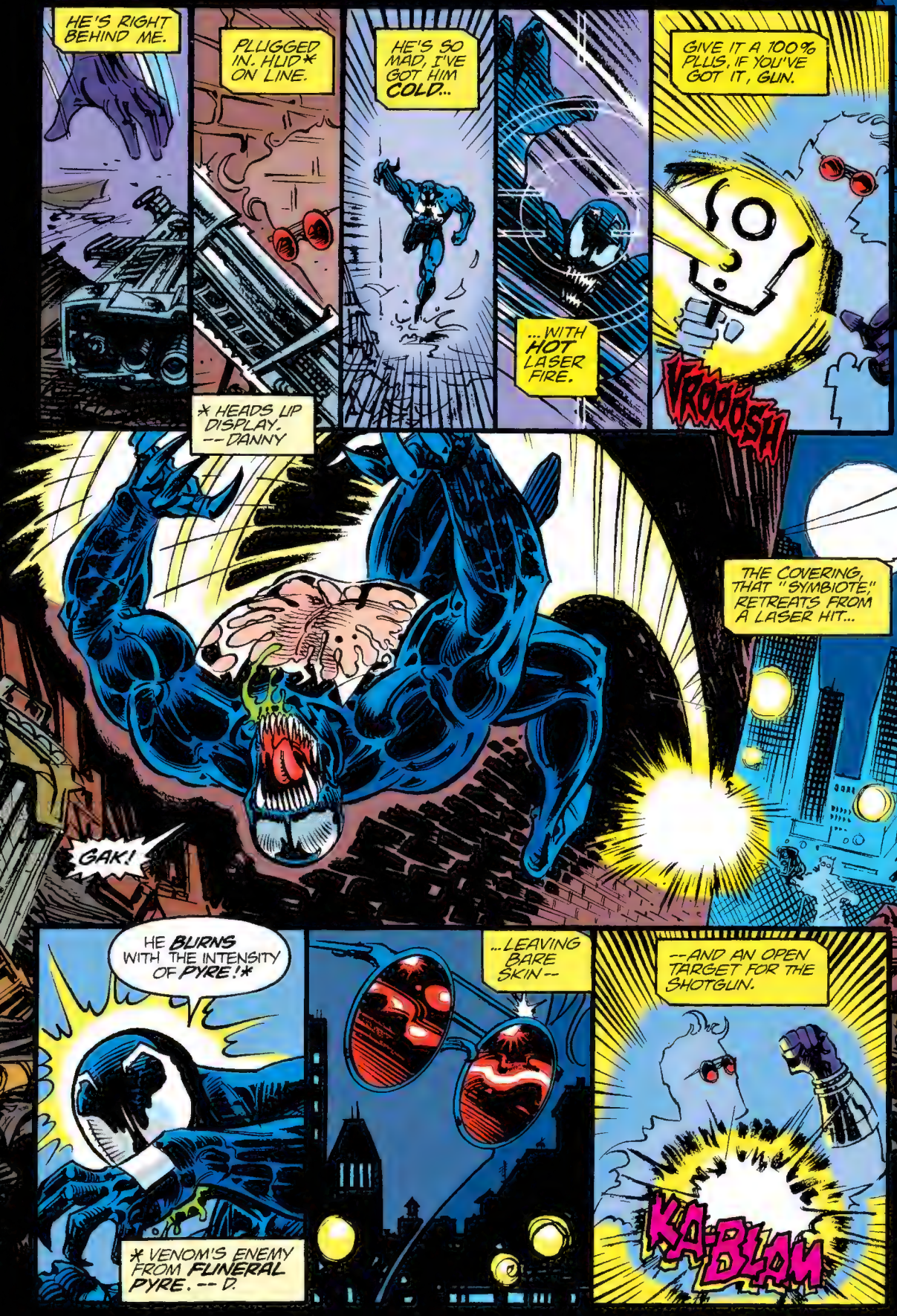

...FLAILING THE AREA WITH SYMBIOTE TENDRILS.
GREAT. THIS IS WORSE THAN FACING A SUNRISE SOCIETY ELECTROWHIP.
IT MAY BE DARK BUT WE CAN STILL SEE YOUR WEAPON, MACE.
TENDRILS EVERYWHERE!
CAN'T DODGE THEM FOREVER.
WHEN I LAND, HAVE TO KEEP THE GUN BEHIND ME SO MY "INVISIBLE" BODY MASKS ITS PRESENCE.
THERE.
THE DIRT CLOUD YOU KICKED UP BETRAYS YOUR POSITION!
I THOUGHT INVISIBILITY WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME AN EDGE.
HE'S GOT ME BACKED AGAINST A WALL.

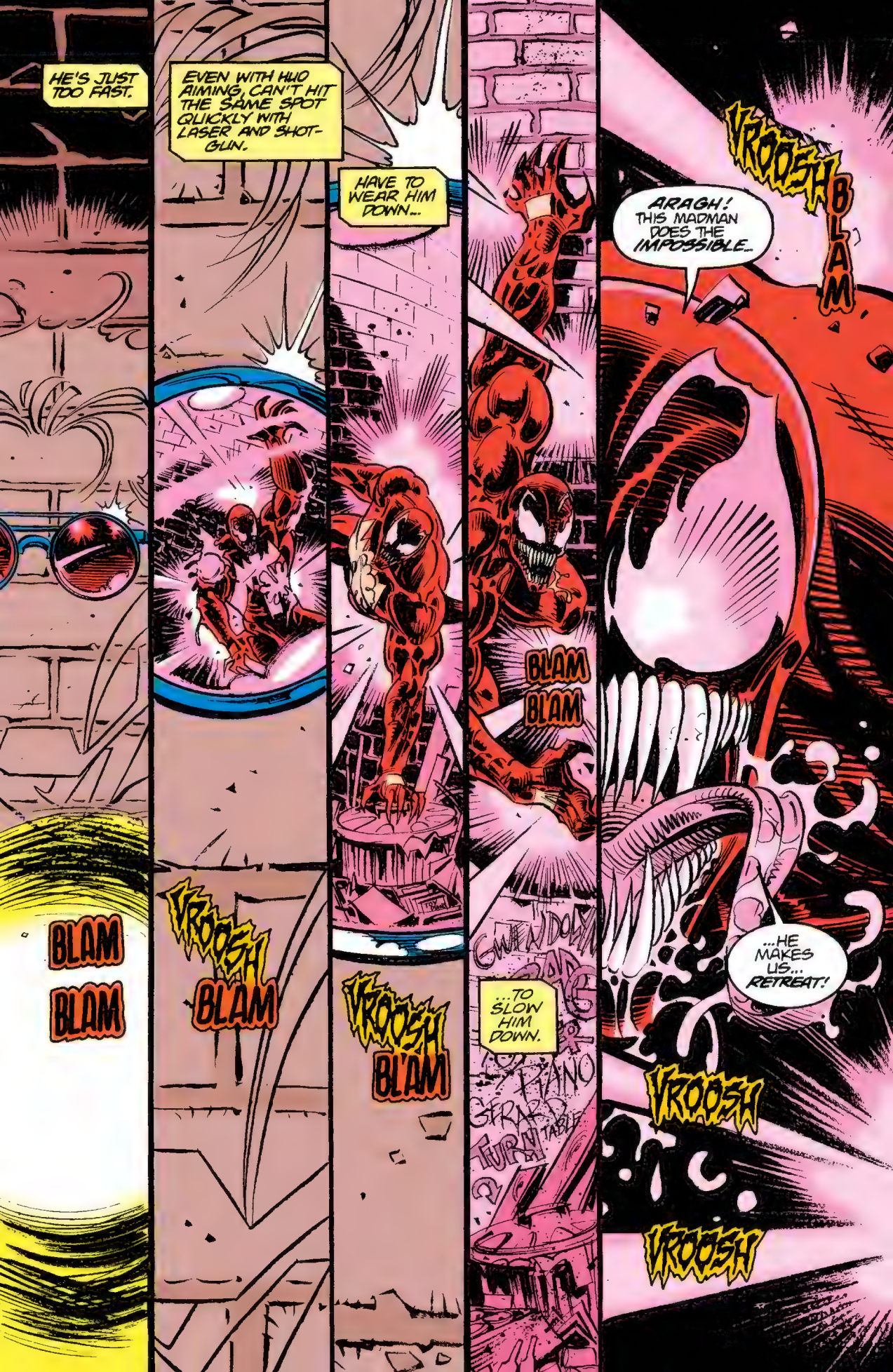
THEY'RE MOVING SO FAST... CAN'T CATCH UP!
STOP TRYING TO STOP THIS JUSTICE.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. VENOM IS... NO ANGEL. HE MEANS WELL, BUT HE'S UNSTABLE.
HE OVER-REACTS. HE KILLS.
THAT'S FINE AS LONG AS HE KILLS THE RIGHT PEOPLE...
...LIKE MACE AND THOSE *&^$#'S THAT TERRORIZE US SQUATTERS!
NO PLACE TO RUN, VILLAIN!
WE'VE GOT YOU!
GOD, I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT IN TIME...

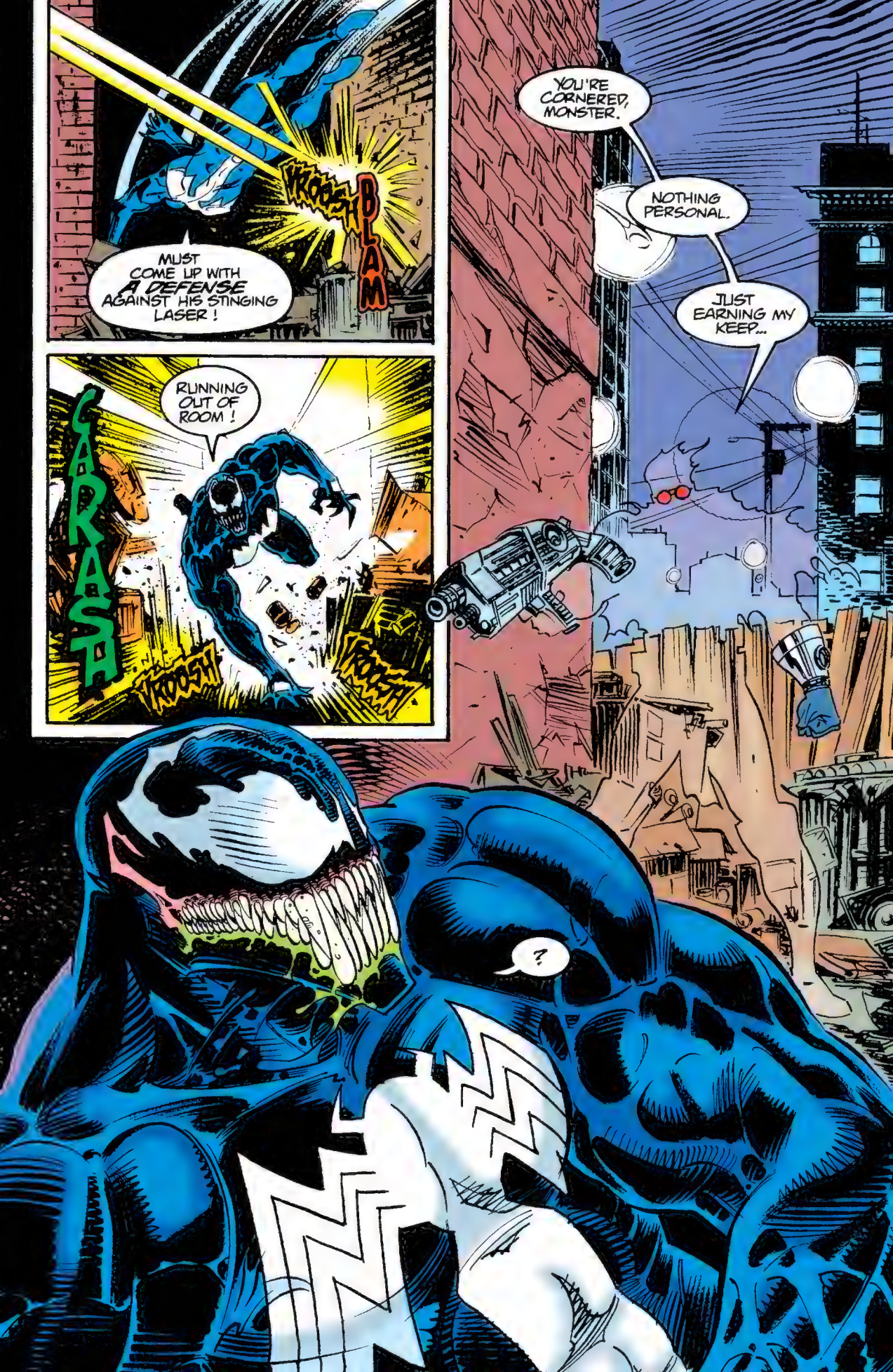

"...TO STOP VENOM FROM KILLING MACE--!
"I'M TELLING YOU IT AIN'T NO LOSS, LADY!"
PLIP
THWANG
OLIAGH!
TKRING
"STOP BEING AS STUPID AS THEY ARE, ALAN! VENOM DOESN'T REALIZE IT, BUT HE'S PROTECTING THOSE WHO ATTACKED YOUR BAND OF SQUATTERS!
SLAM
"MACE IS JUST TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE PEOPLE WHO BRED HIM TO BE AN ELITE HIT MAN...
LET US SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE WITHOUT YOUR HIGH TECH TOY!
"HE JUST WANTS TO GET TO L.A. TO FIND AN OLD FRIEND WHO MAY BE ABLE TO HELP HIM STAY FREE...
"...AND CURE SOME HEALTH PROBLEMS!"
PLIP
YOU'RE SNARED, MACE. JUMP ALL YOU WANT... YOU'RE OURS!
HE'S GOT HEALTH PROBLEMS?

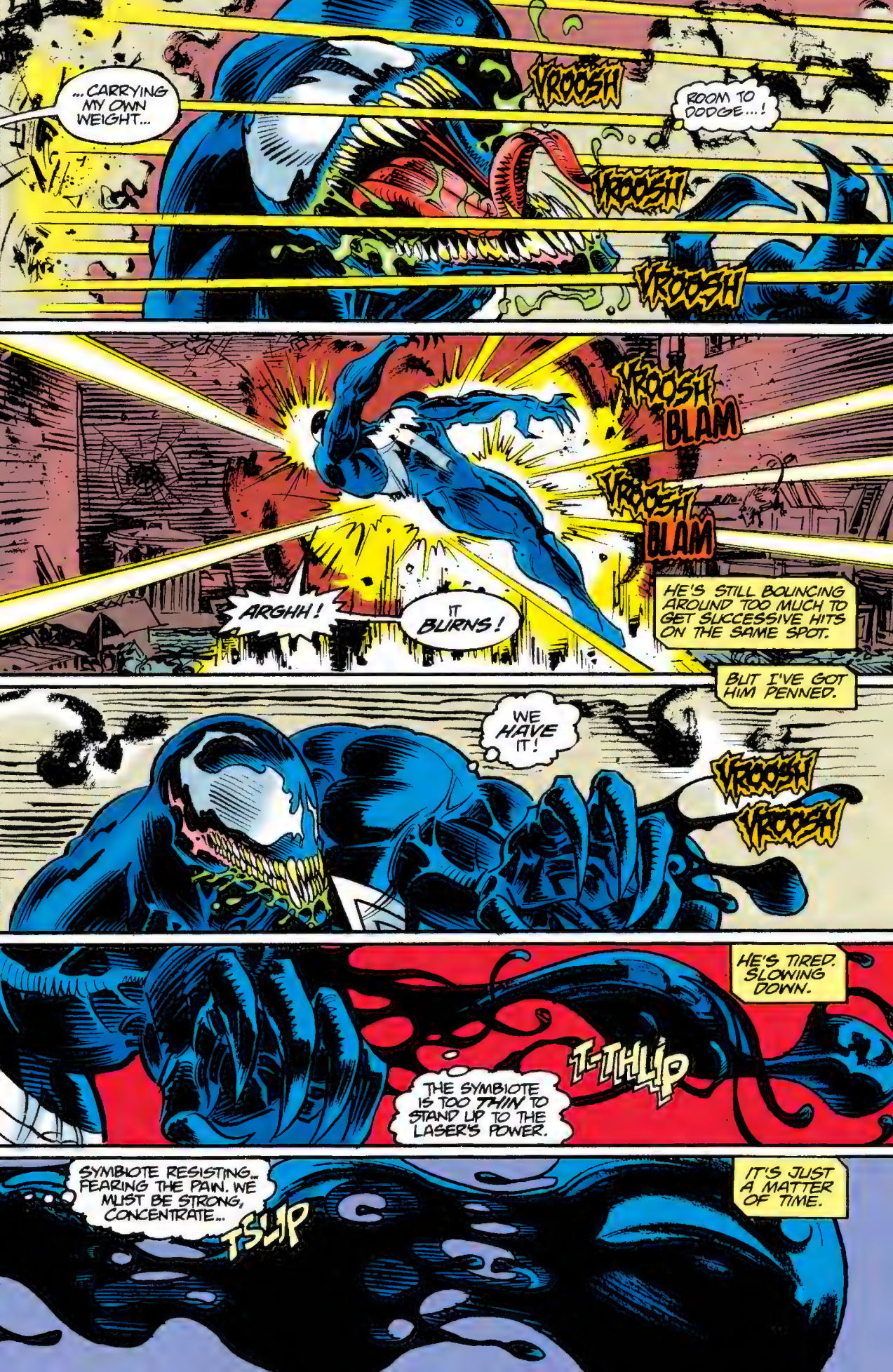

DID IT! IT WAS SO BUSY BOASTING THAT I MANAGED TO TWIST FREE...
...FOR THE MOMENT.
HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO AVOID THOSE WHIRLING TENDRILS!
HMMM - WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
"LADY, WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO HELP THIS VENOM GUY IF YOU DON'T APPROVE OF HIS ACTIONS?"
"HE'S MY FRIEND."
KLOSH!
"OH."
COME OUT, MACE. YOU ONLY DENY THE INEVITABLE... ALL THESE BRANCHES WON'T HIDE YOU FOR LONG!
HE'S ALL TANGLED UP IN THE THICK FLORA...
...JUST LONG ENOUGH TO PULL ANOTHER MACE...
...AND BURY IT WHERE IT'S NEEDED!
AIEEEGHYA!

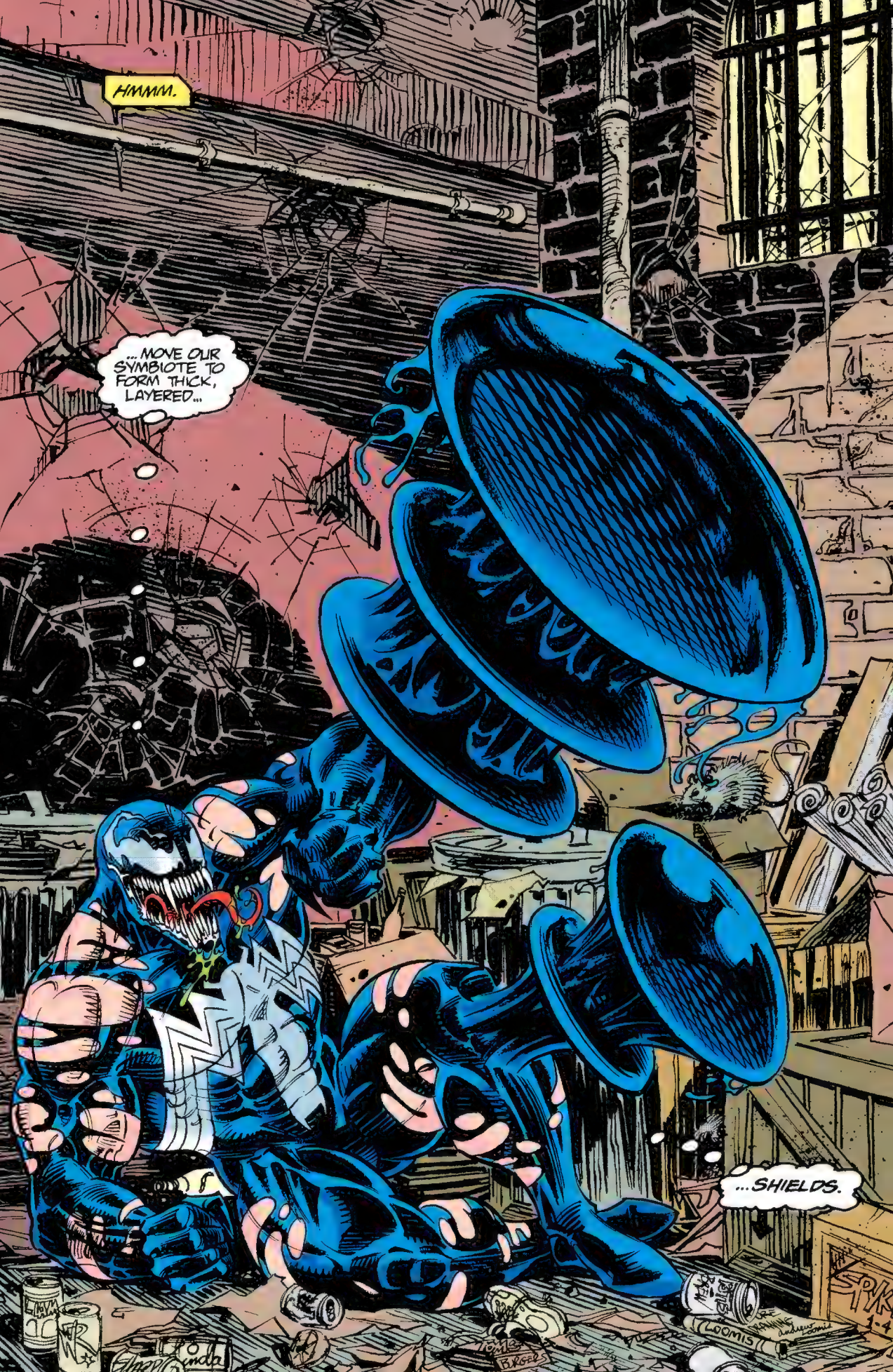

SYMBIOTE SAVED US FROM SERIOUS INJURY...
...BUT THIS MAN CAUSES US PAIN!
MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO RETRIEVE MY GUN!
HIS DEATH WILL NOT BE AN EASY ONE!

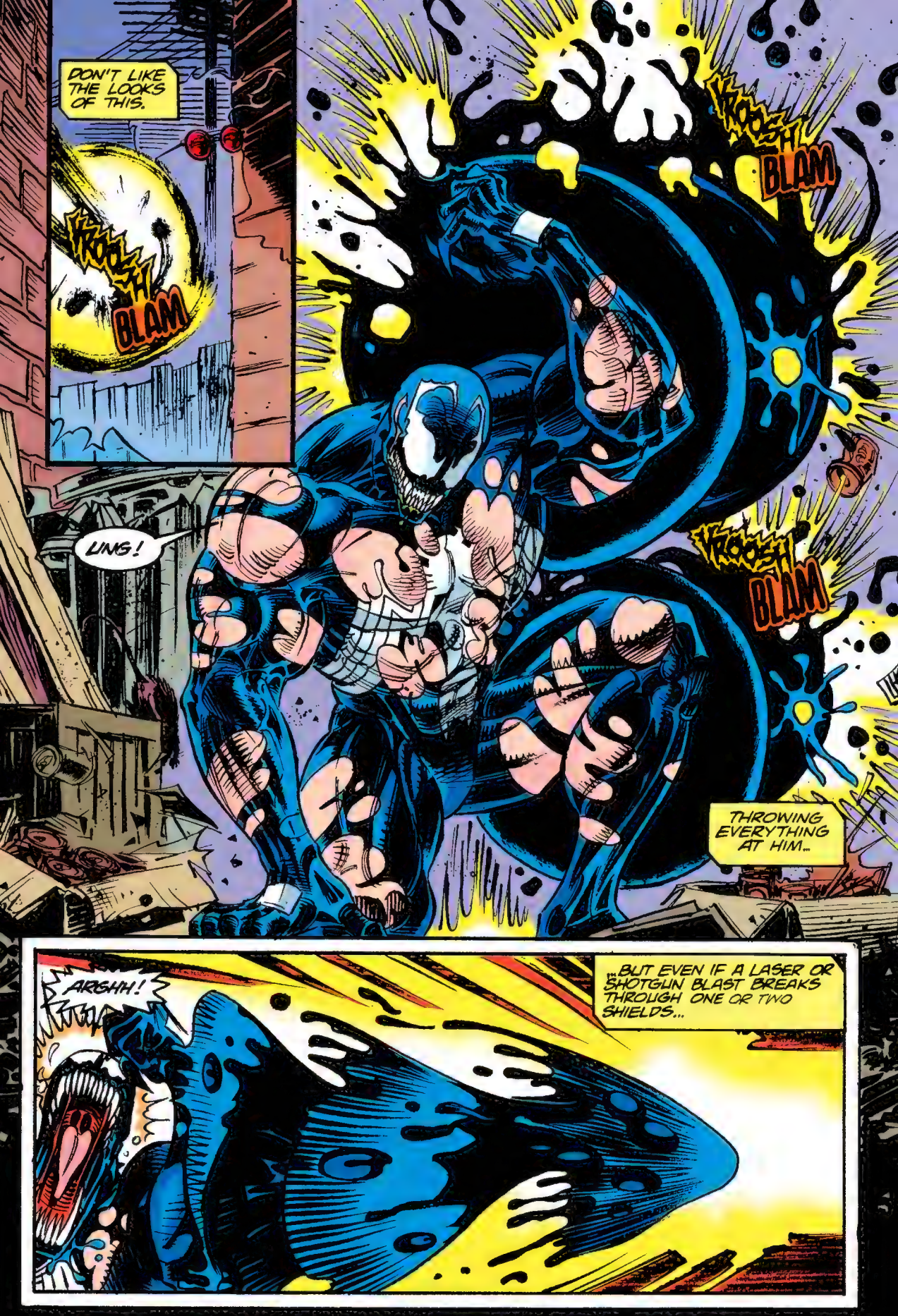

HE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME.
PLUGGED IN. HUD* ON LINE.
HE'S SO MAD, I'VE GOT HIM COLD...
...WITH HOT LASER FIRE.
GIVE IT A 100% PLUS, IF YOU'VE GOT IT, GUN.
VROOOSH
* HEADS UP DISPLAY. -- DANNY
THE COVERING, THAT "SYMBIOTE," RETREATS FROM A LASER HIT...
GAK!
HE BURNS WITH THE INTENSITY OF PYRE!*
...LEAVING BARE SKIN --
--AND AN OPEN TARGET FOR THE SHOTGUN.
KA-BLAM
* VENOM'S ENEMY FROM FUNERAL PYRE. -- D.


HE'S JUST TOO FAST.
BLAM
BLAM
EVEN WITH HUO AIMING, CAN'T HIT THE SAME SPOT QUICKLY WITH LASER AND SHOT-GUN.
VROOSH
BLAM
HAVE TO WEAR HIM DOWN...
VROOSH
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
...TO SLOW HIM DOWN.
ARAGH! THIS MADMAN DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE...
VROOSH
BLAM
...HE MAKES US... RETREAT!
VROOSH
VROOSH


VROOSH
BLAM
MUST COME UP WITH A DEFENSE AGAINST HIS STINGING LASER!
RUNNING OUT OF ROOM!
CRASH
VROOSH
YOU'RE CORNERED, MONSTER.
NOTHING PERSONAL.
JUST EARNING MY KEEP...
?

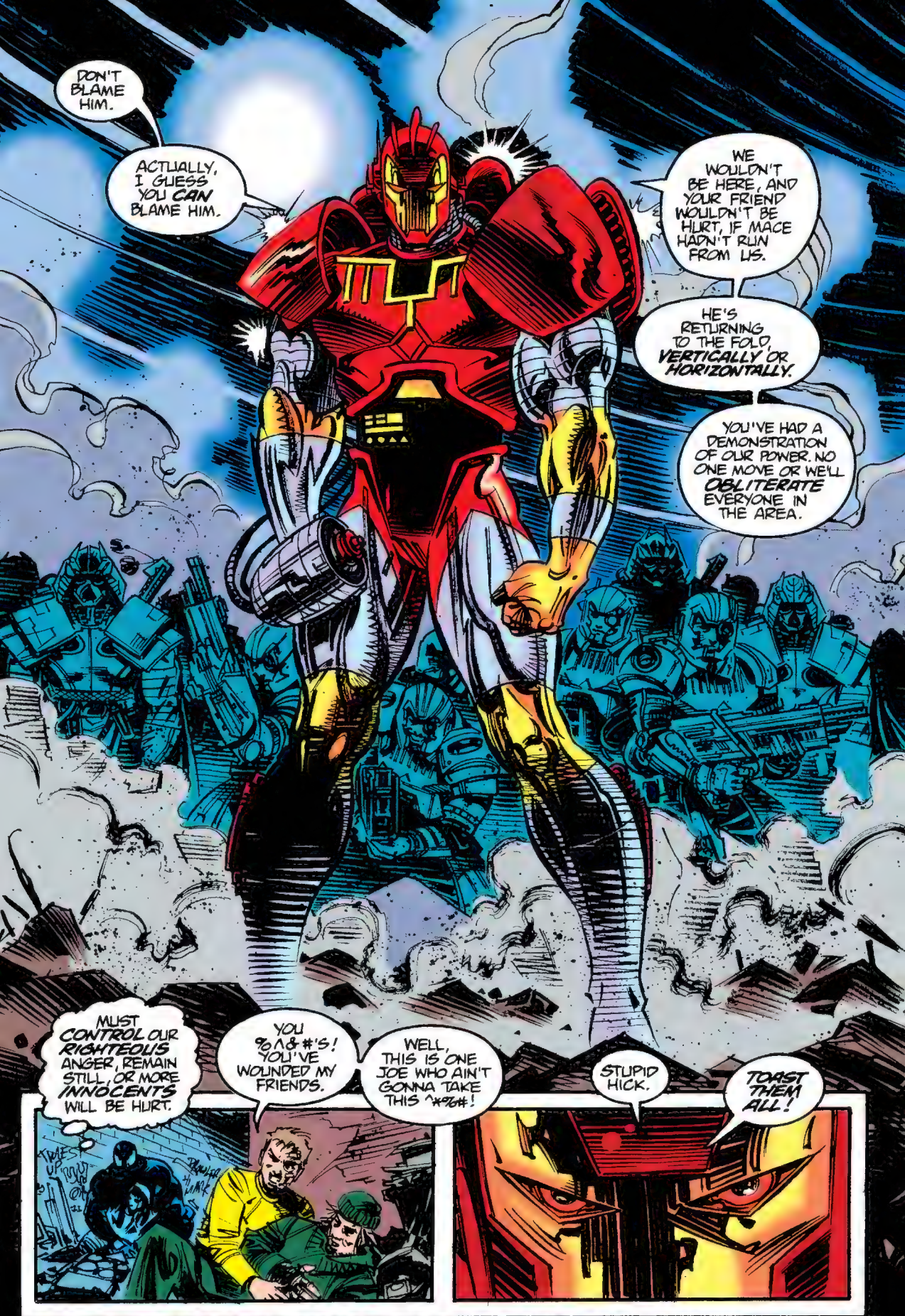

...CARRYING MY OWN WEIGHT...
VROOSH
ROOM TO DODGE...!
VROOSH
VROOSH
VROOSH
BLAM
VROOSH
BLAM
ARGHH!
IT BURNS!
HE'S STILL BOUNCING AROUND TOO MUCH TO GET SUCCESSIVE HITS ON THE SAME SPOT.
BUT I'VE GOT HIM PENNED.
WE HAVE IT!
VROOSH
VROOSH
HE'S TIRED. SLOWING DOWN.
T-THUP
THE SYMBIOTE IS TOO THIN TO STAND UP TO THE LASER'S POWER.
SYMBIOTE RESISTING.. FEARING THE PAIN. WE MUST BE STRONG, CONCENTRATE..
TSUP
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME.


HMMM.
...MOVE OUR SYMBIOTE TO FORM THICK, LAYERED...
...SHIELDS.


DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS.
FROOSH
BLAM
FROOSH
BLAM
FROOSH
BLAM
UNG!
THROWING EVERYTHING AT HIM...
ARGHH!
...BUT EVEN IF A LASER OR SHOTGUN BLAST BREAKS THROUGH ONE OR TWO SHIELDS...

STOP!
...THE POWER OF THE SHOT IS SO DEPLETED THAT THE THIRD SHIELD STOPS IT COLD.
THE EFFORT IS TAKING ITS TOLL ON BOTH OF US.
ENERGY LOW ON LCD. I'LL KILL THE CAMMO PROGRAM FOR NOW. HE'S NOT GETTING UP.
A POINT BLANK NON-MOBILE TARGET.

VREEE
VREEE
VREEE
STOP, MACE!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM!
INCOMING?
DON'T PULL THAT TRIGGER...
KA-BLAM
THEY'VE FOUND ME...
BECK?!
MUST GET...TO HER.
THIS IS YOUR DOING, VILLAIN! ANOTHER INNOCENT HURT...
...ONE IMPORTANT TO US!


DON'T BLAME HIM.
ACTUALLY, I GUESS YOU CAN BLAME HIM.
WE WOULDN'T BE HERE, AND YOUR FRIEND WOULDN'T BE HURT, IF MACE HADN'T RUN FROM US.
HE'S RETURNING TO THE FOLD, VERTICALLY OR HORIZONTALLY.
YOU'VE HAD A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR POWER. NO ONE MOVE OR WE'LL OBLITERATE EVERYONE IN THE AREA.
MUST CONTROL OUR RIGHTEOUS ANGER, REMAIN STILL, OR MORE INNOCENTS WILL BE HURT.
YOU %^&#'S! YOU'VE WOUNDED MY FRIENDS.
WELL, THIS IS ONE JOE WHO AIN'T GONNA TAKE THIS ^*%#!
STUPID HICK.
TOAST THEM ALL!

WE'VE NO CHOICE NOW!
HAVE TO TRY AND STOP THIS MASSACRE OF SQUATTER CLIENTS...
...AND SAVE MY OWN TAIL IN THE PROCESS.
FIRE!
NEXT ISSUE, VENOM AND MACE FIGHT AN UNCOMMON ENEMY! BE HERE IN FOUR SHORT WEEKS FOR THE INCREDIBLE CONCLUSION OF VENOM: THE MACE!

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VENOM
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CONCLUSION
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JUL
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH MACE AGAINST THE
SUNRISE SOCIETY!

BLAM
Stan Lee presents:
KA BLAM KA BLAM
VENOM IN THE MACE
PART THREE--
DEADLY DEALINGS
VROOSH
THE SUNRISE SOCIETY IS DETERMINED TO RECOVER ME FOR STUDY WHETHER I'M BREATHING, OR NOT
AND THEY'LL MASSACRE MY SQUATTER CLIENTS TO DO IT. THAT WOULD BE BAD FOR FUTURE BUSINESS, AND MY CONTINUED FREEDOM.
VROOSH
FIRE!
FRY THEM ALL WITH LASERS...
...BLAST THEM TO PIECES WITH FULL AUTO SHOTGUNS...
...AND CUT THEM INTO FAJITAS WITH YOUR BLADES!
SO IT'S TIME TO TEAM UP WITH THIS INSANE VENOM CREATURE AND...
WRITER CARL POTTS
PENCILER LIAM SHARP
INKER BILL REINHOLD
LETTERER DAVE SHARPE
COLORIST TOM SMITH
EDITOR DANNY FINGEROTH
CHIEF TOM DEFALCO

SIX HIGH TECH SOLDIERS, FOUR HIGH TECH NINJAS... AND THE OFFICER. TOUGH ODDS.

THEY REALLY WANT ME BACK.

DO SOME TOASTING OF MY OWN!

KA BLAM

VROOSH

YOU HURT BECK. YOU'LL ALL DIE!

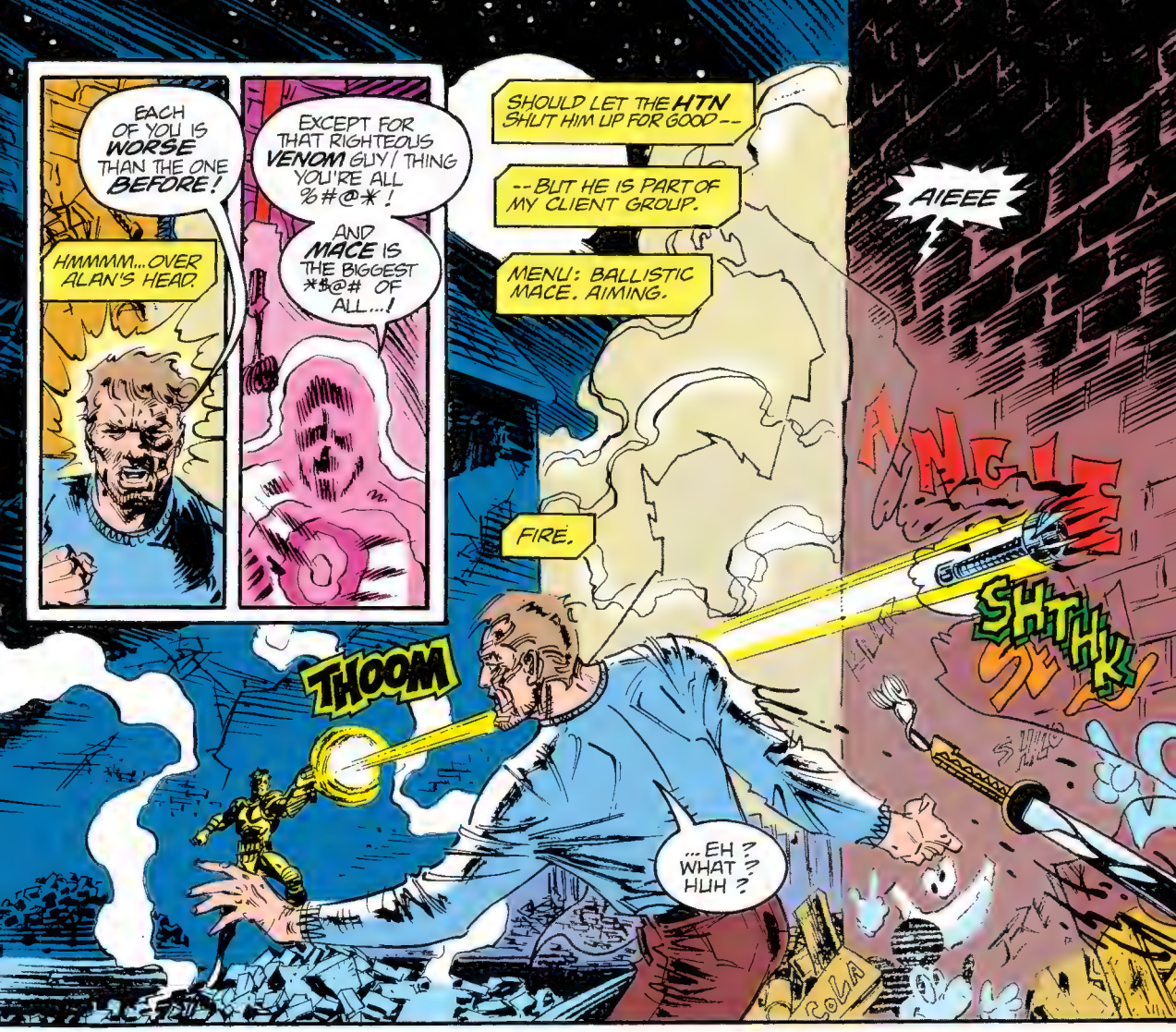
THIS IS ALL ON YOUR CONSCIENCE, MACE...

CONSCIENCE ?

..YOU SHOULD'VE COME BACK PEACEFULLY.

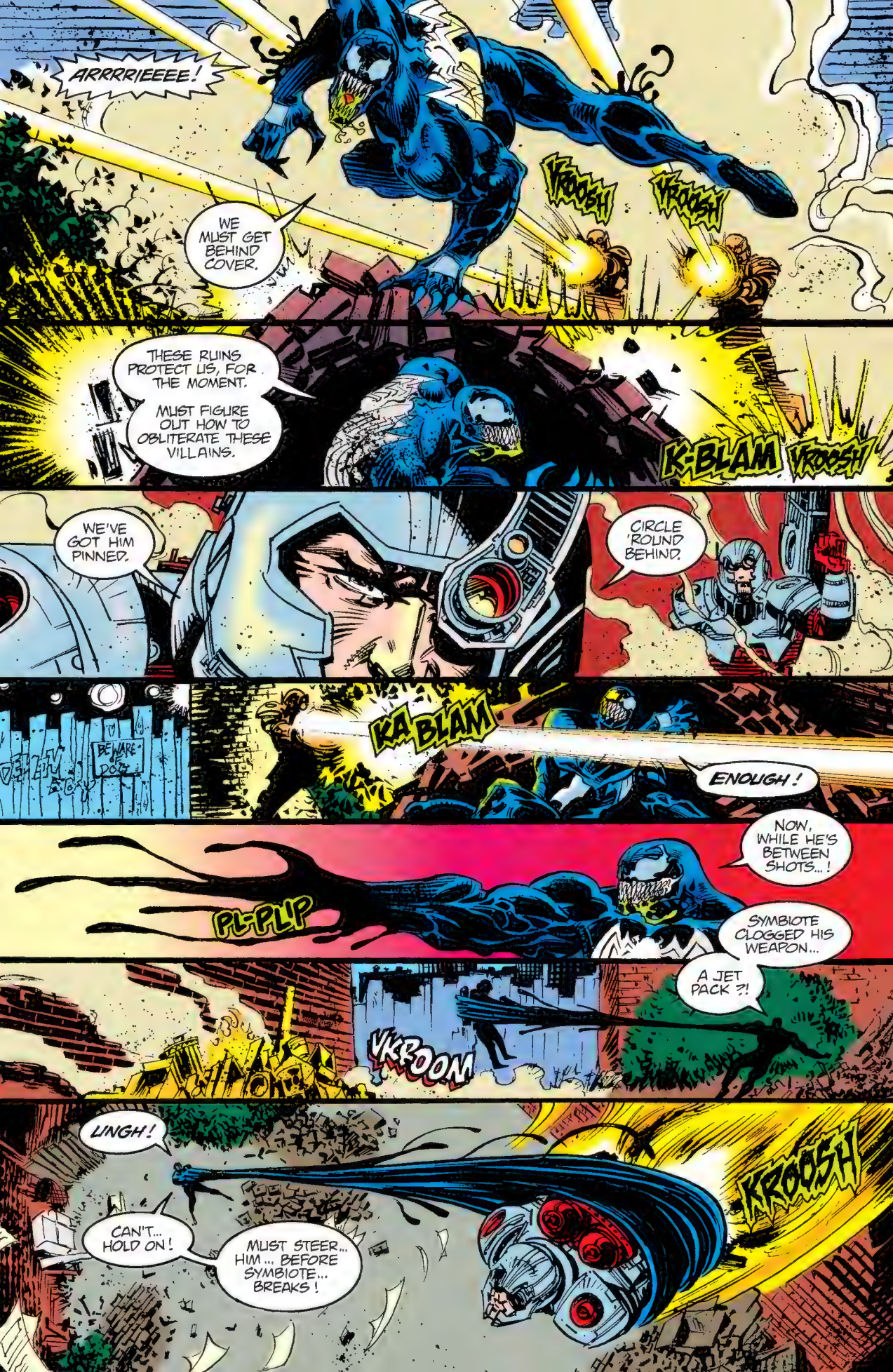
NO ONE HARMS INNOCENTS WHILE WE'RE AROUND!
URGH
OUR ALIEN SYMBIOTE ABSORBS AND SPITS OUT YOUR SLUGS...
KROOSH
KROOSH
MAYBE, BUT YOUR FANCY SUIT DOESN'T LIKE OUR LASERS.
ARGHH!
ELSEWHERE ON THE SLUM LINED BATTLEFIELD, THE HTN'S ACTIVATE THEIR LCD* SUITS WHICH MIMIC THEIR SURROUNDINGS...
...MAKING THE SOCIETY NINJAS VIRTUALLY INVISIBLE.
*LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY. -- DANNY

ONLY THEIR BLADES, WHEN THE BROAD SIDE SHOWS, ARE VISIBLE.
MY LCD BATTERIES ARE TOO LOW TO ACTIVATE.
DOESN'T MATTER...
...BECAUSE THEY'LL BE VISIBLE TO ME, TOO.
SANS SHADES, I CAN SEE THEIR INFRARED SILHOUETTES...

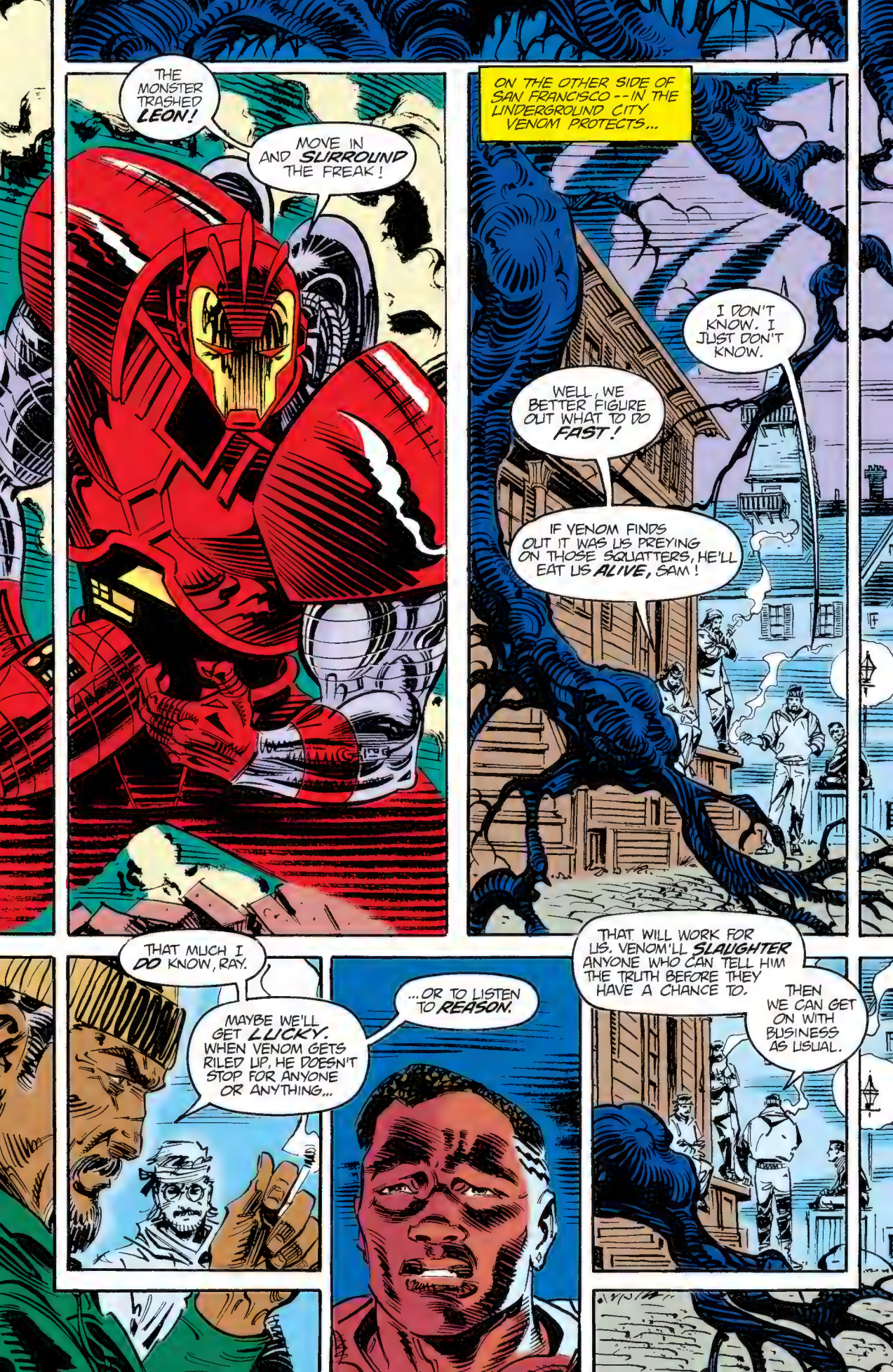

EACH OF YOU IS WORSE THAN THE ONE BEFORE!
HMMMM...OVER ALAN'S HEAD.
EXCEPT FOR THAT RIGHTEOUS VENOM GUY/THING YOU'RE ALL %#@*!
AND MACE IS THE BIGGEST *&@# OF ALL...!
SHOULD LET THE HTN SHUT HIM UP FOR GOOD--
--BUT HE IS PART OF MY CLIENT GROUP.
MENU: BALLISTIC MACE. AIMING.
AIEEE
ANGLE
FIRE.
THOOM
SHTHK
...EH? WHAT? HUH?
COLA

UH, HEY, MACE--
--WHY'D YOU DO THAT?

THAT'S WHAT I'M BEING PAID FOR, RIGHT?
NOW WHERE DID THE REST OF THE HTN'S "DISAPPEAR" TO?


ARRRRIEEEE!
WE MUST GET BEHIND COVER.
VROOSH
VROOSH
THESE RUINS PROTECT US, FOR THE MOMENT.
MUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO OBLITERATE THESE VILLAINS.
K-BLAM
VROOSH
WE'VE GOT HIM PINNED.
CIRCLE 'ROUND BEHIND.
BEWARE DOG
KA BLAM
ENOUGH!
NOW, WHILE HE'S BETWEEN SHOTS...!
PL-PLIP
SYMBIOTE CLOGGED HIS WEAPON...
A JET PACK ?!
VKROOM
UNGH!
CAN'T... HOLD ON!
MUST STEER... HIM... BEFORE SYMBIOTE... BREAKS!
KROOSH

WAM!
ROOOOSH
THE LANDING IS BRUTAL.
PERHAPS THE JUDGES WILL GIVE HIM HIGH MARKS FOR HIS ARTISTIC IMPRESSION!


THE MONSTER TRASHED LEON!
MOVE IN AND SURROUND THE FREAK!
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF SAN FRANCISCO--IN THE UNDERGROUND CITY VENOM PROTECTS...
I DON'T KNOW. I JUST DON'T KNOW.
WELL, WE BETTER FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO FAST!
IF VENOM FINDS OUT IT WAS US PREYING ON THOSE SQUATTERS, HE'LL EAT US ALIVE, SAM!
THAT MUCH I DO KNOW, RAY.
MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY. WHEN VENOM GETS RILED UP, HE DOESN'T STOP FOR ANYONE OR ANYTHING...
...OR TO LISTEN TO REASON.
THAT WILL WORK FOR US. VENOM'LL SLAUGHTER ANYONE WHO CAN TELL HIM THE TRUTH BEFORE THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO.
THEN WE CAN GET ON WITH BUSINESS AS USUAL.

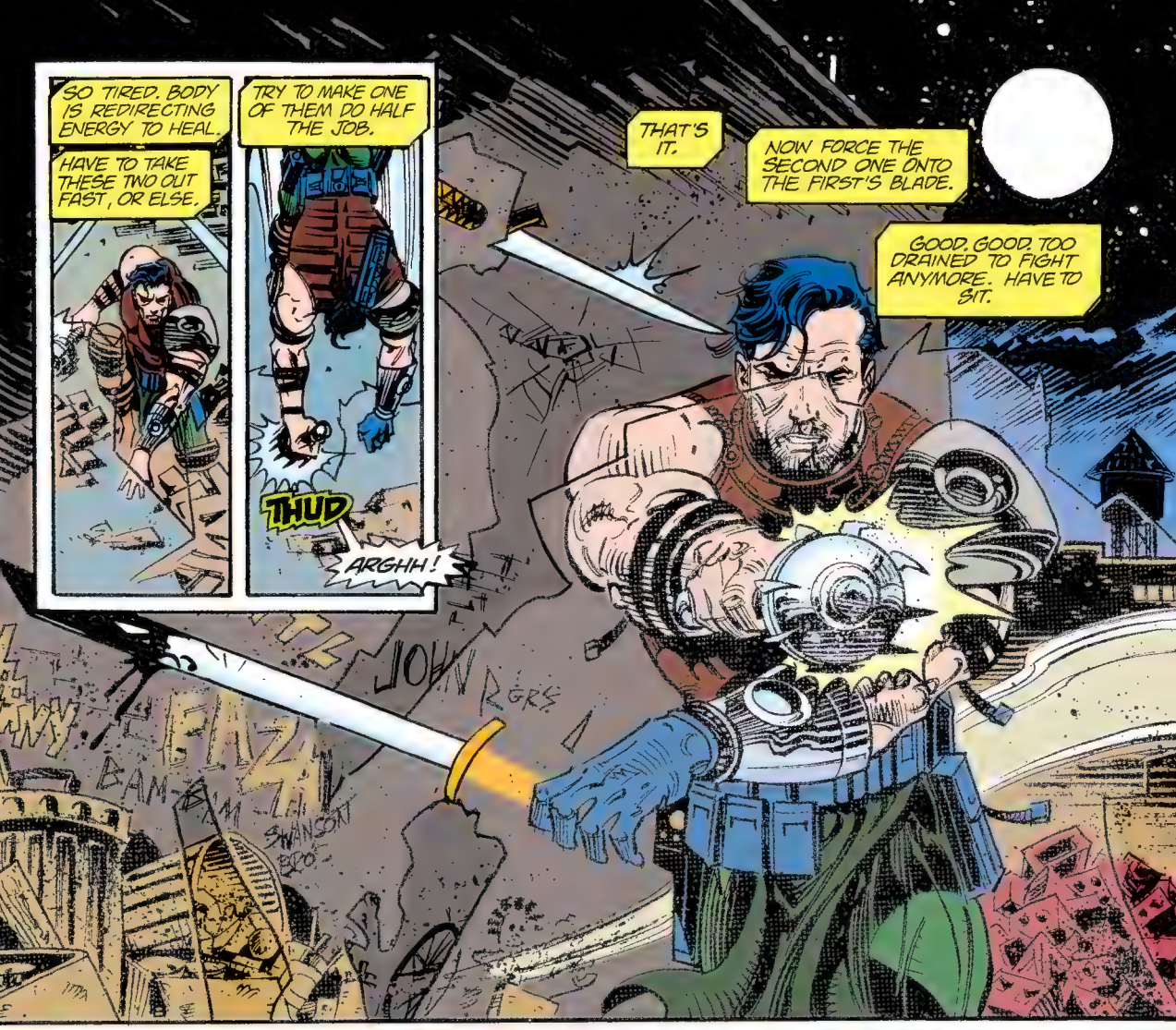
FAKE LOW. GO HIGH...
HEYAH!
AND GET CLOBBERED...
WAK
...AND DISARMED.
TKAK
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE STAYED LOW.

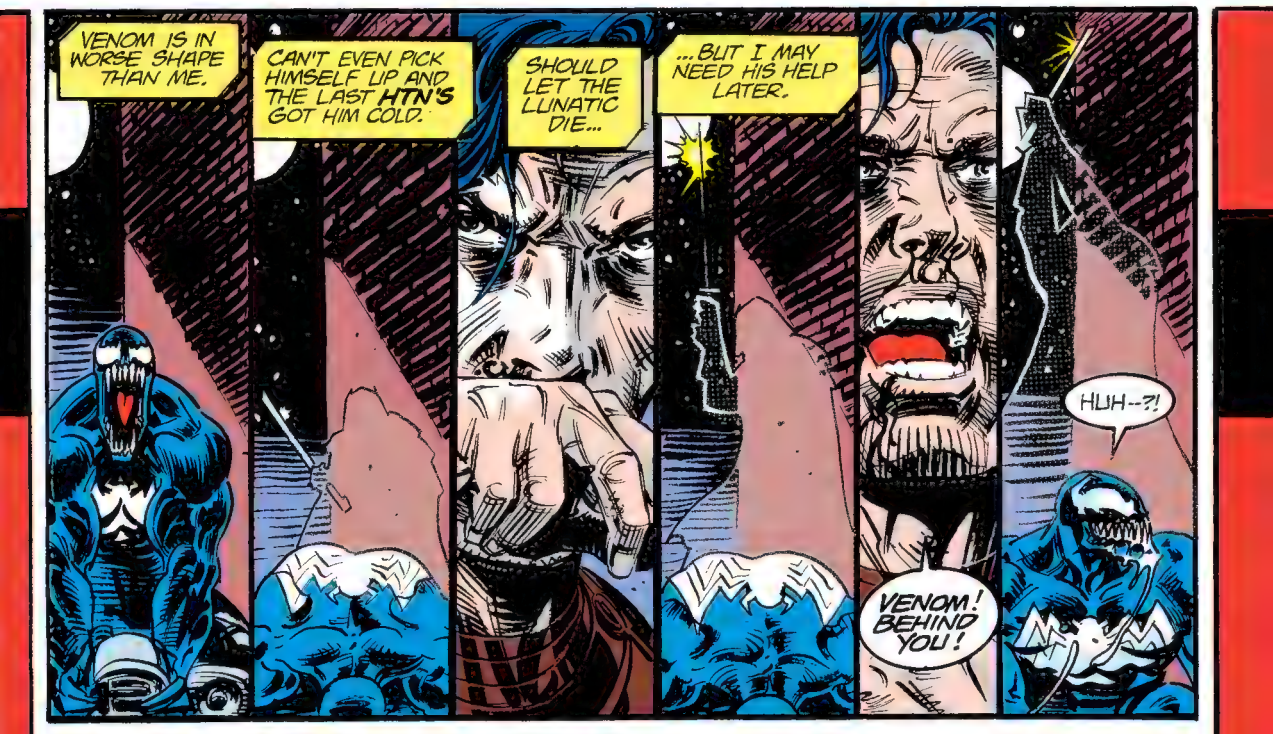
THE SOCIETY MUSCLE HAS NO IDEA WHAT SETS ME OFF FROM THEM.
KRAK
KRAK
THE DIFFERENCE IS MORE THAN WHAT DR. ITO DID TO ME.
CHUK
SWOOSH
TIME TO GRAB ANOTHER MACE HANDLE.
MENU: BLADES. EXTEND.
SPRANG
WE ARE DIFFERENT...
THUD
...BUT WE ALL KILL EACH OTHER EVEN THOUGH WE ARE LITERALLY KILLING PIECES OF OUR-SELVES.
CHOK
LING!
I GUESS THE DIFFERENCE IS IN WHY WE FIGHT.

MONSTER!
SURRENDER OR WE'LL REDUCE YOUR LADY FRIEND HERE TO SUB-ATOMICS!
THESE VILLAINS FORCE OUR HAND...
...WE MUST SAVE BECK!
A DIVERSION IS NEEDED TO JUMP THEM BEFORE THEY CAN FIRE THEIR WICKED WEAPONS AT US.

HEY, SHE'S AWAKE.
CREAK
FOOLS!
OUR SYMBIOTE TENDRILS SNUCK UNDER THE RUBBLE TO 'ANIMATE' THAT INNOCENT!
FRY THE GIRL!
I'LL GET THE CREEP!
WE DON'T THINK SO!
NOT WHEN WE CAN PROJECT MULTI LEVEL SYMBIOTE SHIELDS TO STOP YOUR SLUGS...
KROOSH
KROOSH
KABLAM
HLIHN...

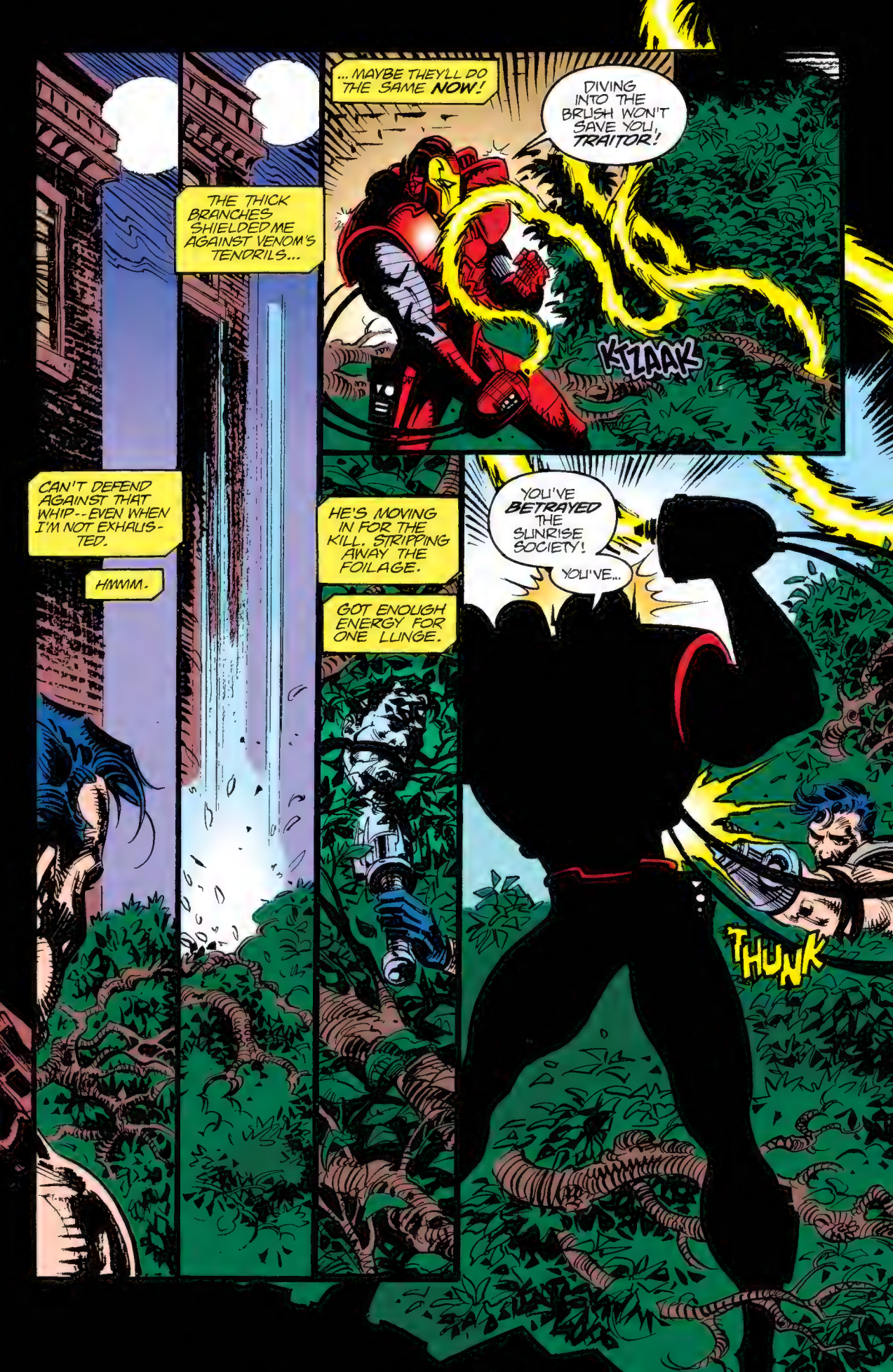
...AND ABSORB YOUR BURNING RAYS!
POUR IT ON!
HIS SHIELDS ARE BREAKING DOWN UNDER ALL THE HITS!
ARGHHH!
NONE OF YOU...
...ARE WORTHY...
URG--!!
...OF YOUR LIVES!

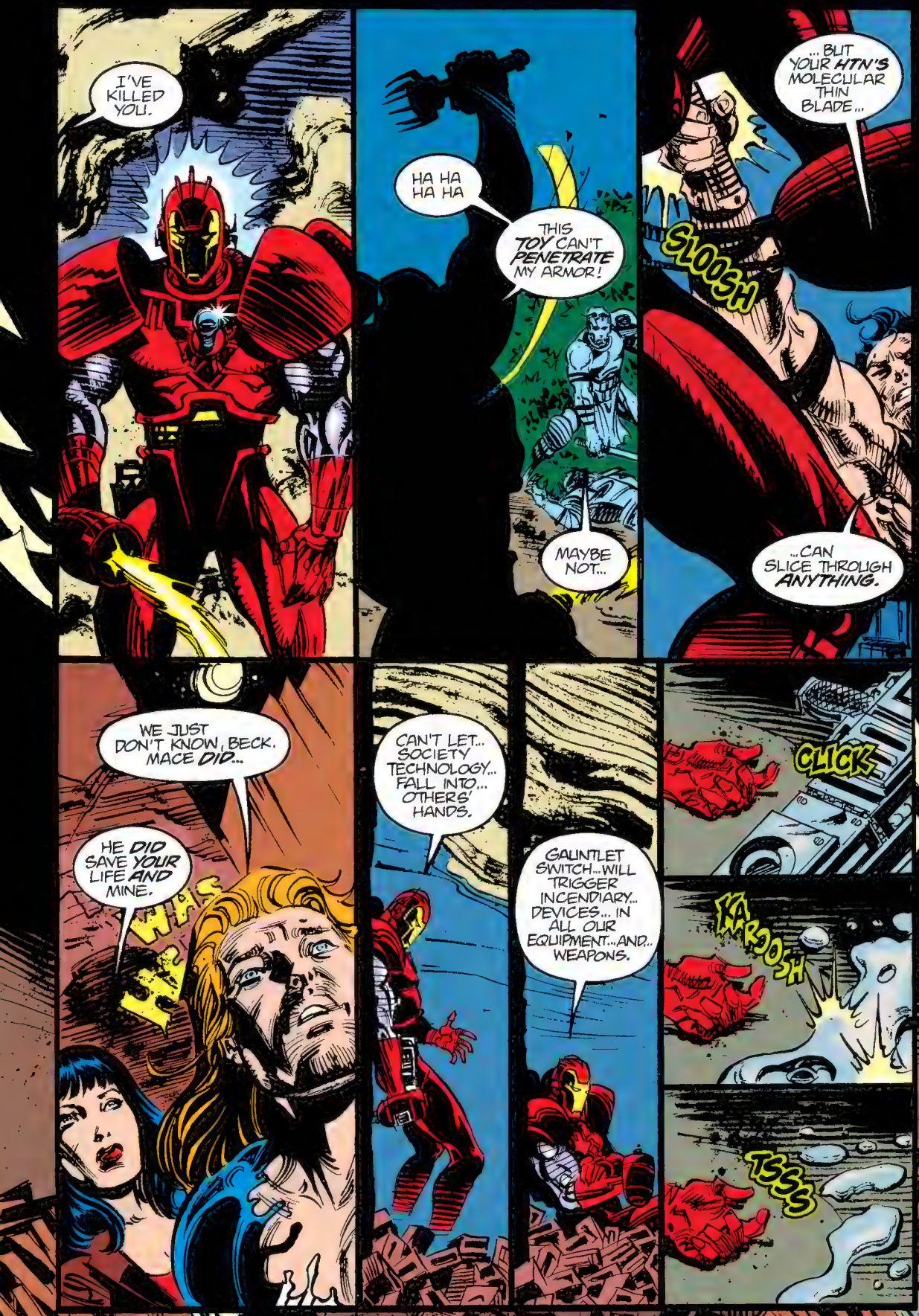

SO TIRED. BODY IS REDIRECTING ENERGY TO HEAL.
HAVE TO TAKE THESE TWO OUT FAST, OR ELSE.
TRY TO MAKE ONE OF THEM DO HALF THE JOB.
THUD
ARGHH!
THAT'S IT.
NOW FORCE THE SECOND ONE ONTO THE FIRST'S BLADE.
GOOD. GOOD. TOO DRAINED TO FIGHT ANYMORE. HAVE TO SIT.


VENOM IS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN ME.
CAN'T EVEN PICK HIMSELF UP AND THE LAST HTN'S GOT HIM COLD.
SHOULD LET THE LUNATIC DIE...
...BUT I MAY NEED HIS HELP LATER.
VENOM! BEHIND YOU!
HUH--?!

SWOOSH
ARIEEE
CAN NOT... SEE YOU...
...BUT WE... KNOW HOW... TO FIND YOU!
THWIP
OUR TENDRILS... WHIP THE AREA... UNTIL CONTACT.
ARGH!
SWOOP
YOU WILL CUT US NO MORE!
KRAK!

MY WHOLE UNIT OBLITERATED.
VENOM AND MACE BOTH EXHAUSTED. ELECTRO WHIP IS FULLY CHARGED.
KZAAK!
BECK! BECK, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I THINK SO, VEN... EDDIE?!
MACE! IS HE ALIVE? IS HE OKAY?
WE THINK SO -- FOR THE MOMENT.
THEY'RE ALL DEAD, MACE...
THANKS TO YOU.
KTZNTZZ
AIIIIEE.
EDDIE, LET ME SEE YOUR FACE.
THANK YOU. EDDIE, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME.
MACE WAS PROTECTING THESE SQUATTERS FROM SOME OF THE UNDERGROUNDERS!
MACE RECOVERED THE SQUATTER'S GOODS FROM SOME OF "OUR" PEOPLE!


...MAYBE THEY'LL DO THE SAME NOW!
DIVING INTO THE BRUSH WON'T SAVE YOU, TRAITOR!
KTZAAK
THE THICK BRANCHES SHIELDED ME AGAINST VENOM'S TENDRILS...
CAN'T DEFEND AGAINST THAT WHIP--EVEN WHEN I'M NOT EXHAUSTED.
HMMM.
HE'S MOVING IN FOR THE KILL. STRIPPING AWAY THE FOILAGE.
GOT ENOUGH ENERGY FOR ONE LUNGE.
YOU'VE BETRAYED THE SUNRISE SOCIETY!
YOU'VE...
THUNK


I'VE KILLED YOU.
HA HA HA HA
THIS TOY CAN'T PENETRATE MY ARMOR!
MAYBE NOT...
... BUT YOUR HTN'S MOLECULAR THIN BLADE...
SLOOSH
...CAN SLICE THROUGH ANYTHING.
WE JUST DON'T KNOW, BECK. MACE DID...
HE DID SAVE YOUR LIFE AND MINE.
CAN'T LET... SOCIETY' TECHNOLOGY... FALL INTO... OTHERS' HANDS.
GAUNTLET SWITCH...WILL TRIGGER INCENDIARY... DEVICES... IN ALL OUR EQUIPMENT...AND... WEAPONS.
CLICK
KA-BOOSH
TSSS

ONE... MORE SWITCH... TO BURN US... ALL...
NO.
...TO CINDERS.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO INCINERATE YOURSELF AND YOUR MEN.
IT'S TIME THE WORLD HAD SOME EVIDENCE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION.
WAK
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, TRAITOR...
GOODBYE...
...BROTHER.
MY GOD! HE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU!
HE'S YOUR TWIN!
CLOSE... BUT NOT QUITE.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE A LOT MORE JUST LIKE HIM BACK 'HOME'!

WE MIS-JUDGED YOU, MACE. FOR THAT WE APOLOGIZE.
EXCUSE US. WE MUST ERADICATE THOSE IN MY CARE WHO ATTACKED THIS SQUATTER COMMUNITY.
NO, EDDIE! DON'T!
PROMISE ME YOU'LL ONLY BANISH THEM! NOTHING MORE!
YES, BECK... WE PROMISE TO JUST... BANISH THE CULPRITS.
NOW, I GUESS I'LL TAKE MY SHARE OF THE RECOVERED GOODS AND CONTINUE ON MY JOURNEY DOWN SOUTH.
YOU AIN'T NO HERO, MACE. REAL HEROES DON'T FIGHT INJUSTICE FOR PAY.
I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES.
YOU'RE SEEING THINGS, JUST LIKE I DO WITHOUT SUNGLASSES TO BLOCK THE EXTREMES OF MY VISION RANGE.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WANT TO BE A HERO?
HEY! I FORGOT!
I BOUGHT THESE AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR EDDIE.
BUT, YOU NEED THEM MORE.
WOW! NICE SHADES! THANKS!
JUST RIGHT FOR HEADING SOUTH.

EPILOGUE.
A SHORT TIME LATER, ACROSS TOWN...
...SAM AND HIS GROUP GATHER ABOVE GROUND TO BEGIN THEIR EXILE.
LET'S GO MAKE A LIVING, BOYS.
NOT LIKELY!
YOU'RE DEAD!
ARGHHF--
BUT, BUT-- BECK SAID YOU PROMISED ONLY TO BANISH US!
WE ARE...!
WE'RE BANISHING YOU FROM THIS LIFE!
AFTER WE DISPOSE OF YOUR BODIES, BECK WILL NEVER KNOW.
URK--!!
NEXT: VENOM: VENGEANCE!

UK ART PAPER FOR BLEED PAGES (BOOKSHELF FORMAT OR SADDLE STITCH)
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Book VENOM - THE MACE #2
SHARP - BREAK DOWNS
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Venom: The Mace #2, page 15 art by LIAM SHARP & BILL REINHOLD

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VENOM
NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE
PART 1 OF 4
STALKERS
PRIME DIRECTIVE:
ERADICATION OF TARGETS
TARGETING:
VENOM
HUMAN/SYMBIOTE ENTITY
TARGETING:
VENGEANCE
ECTOPLASMIC ENTITY
ENERGY WEAPONS PRIMED:
T-MINUS 5 SECONDS TO DISCHARGE

SAN FRANCISCO...
NOT TOO LONG AGO, THE MAN RUNNING DOWN THE STREET, GASPING FOR EVERY BREATH, HELD A JOB THAT PAID HIM PRETTY GOOD MONEY.
HE WORE TAILOR-MADE SUITS AND ATE OUT AT FANCY RESTAURANTS.
THE JOB IS GONE.
THE MAN IS WEARING RAGS AND EATING OUT OF TRASH BINS.
RECENTLY, LIFE HAS BEEN HARD FOR SEAN KNIGHT...
...AND IT'S ABOUT TO GET WORSE.
IT'S OVER, KNIGHT. YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM ME. SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST CLIMB ON DOWN?
BKOOM
I SAID... GET DOWN!
GOOD. NOW YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A TALK.
TRY TO RUN...
...AND I'LL SHOOT YOU IN THE LEG.
AW, WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND SAY THAT?

NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE

PART I

HOWARD MACKIE & RON LIM
STORY AND ART
AL MILGROM - INKER
KEN LOPEZ — LETTERER
TOM SMITH — COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH — EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO — EDITOR IN CHIEF

YOU'RE SO BIG AND YOU HAVE THE GUN.

THIS MAN LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL, OR SHELTER, IN MONTHS.

WHAT THREAT COULD HE BE?

MY OTHER * AND I HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT. AND RIGHT NOW...

...YOU DON'T LOOK SO INNOCENT!

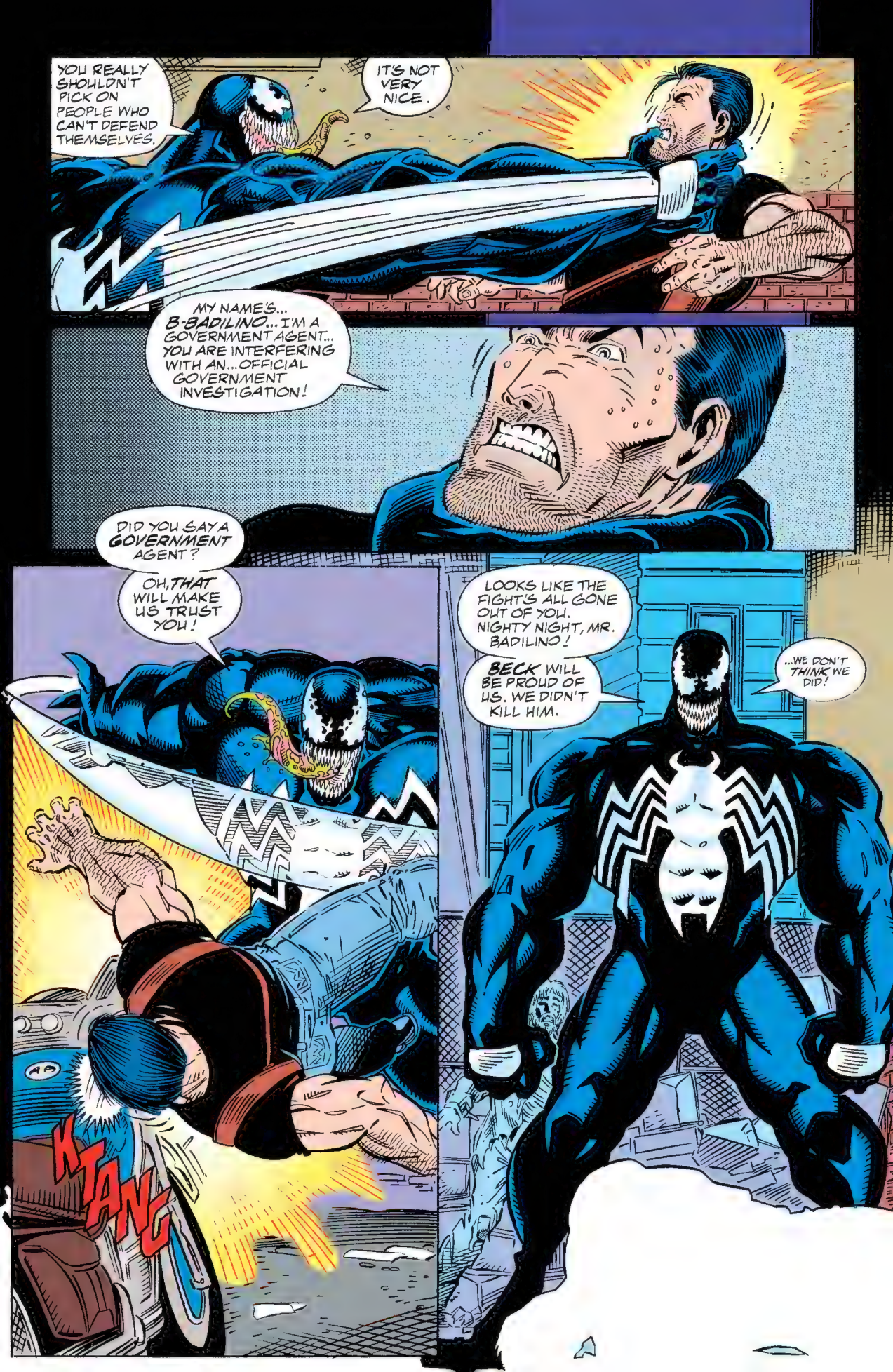
SO WE DON'T TRUST YOU!

SUSPICION IS HEALTHY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES...

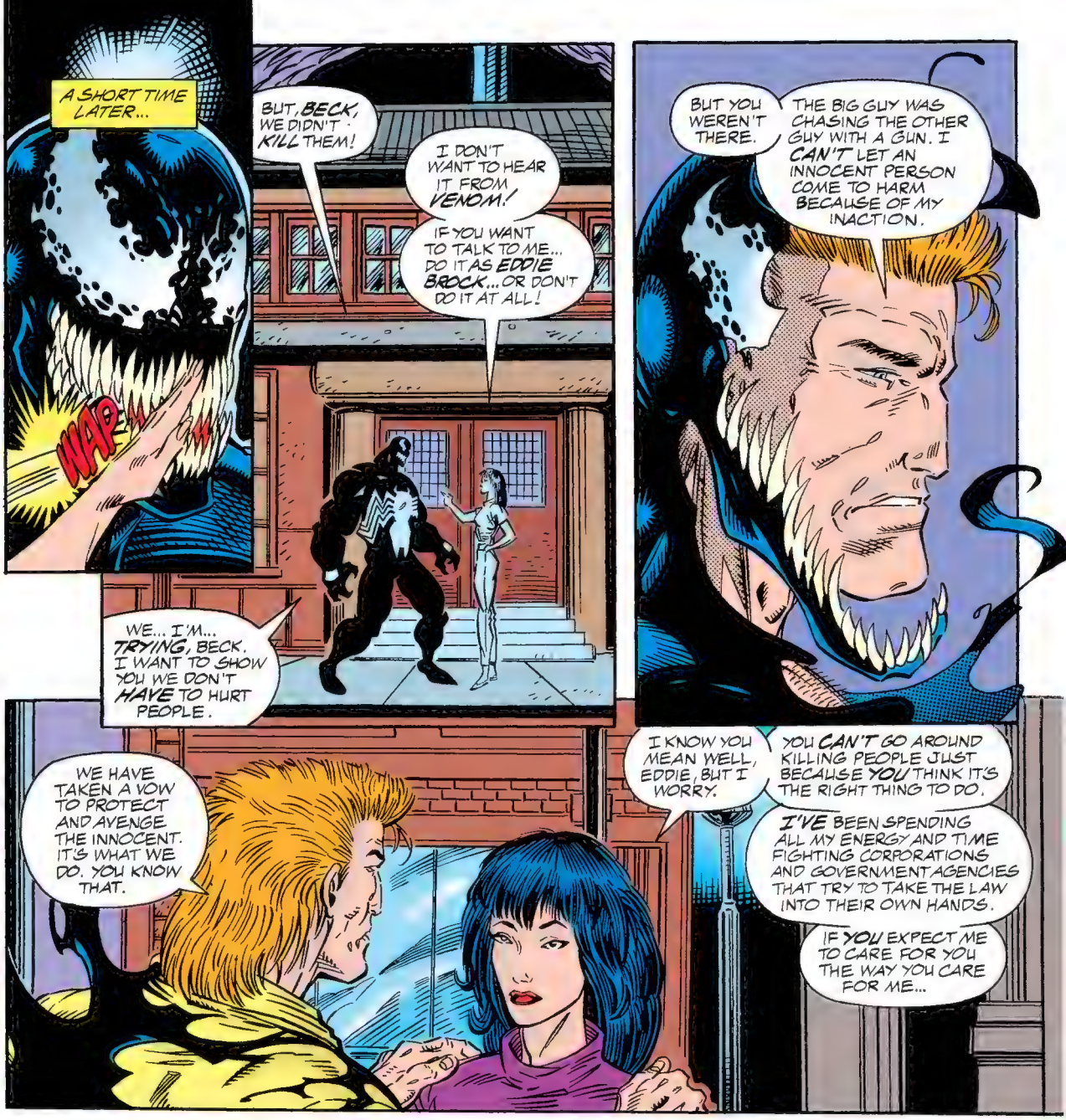
REPRISALS IN BLOOD

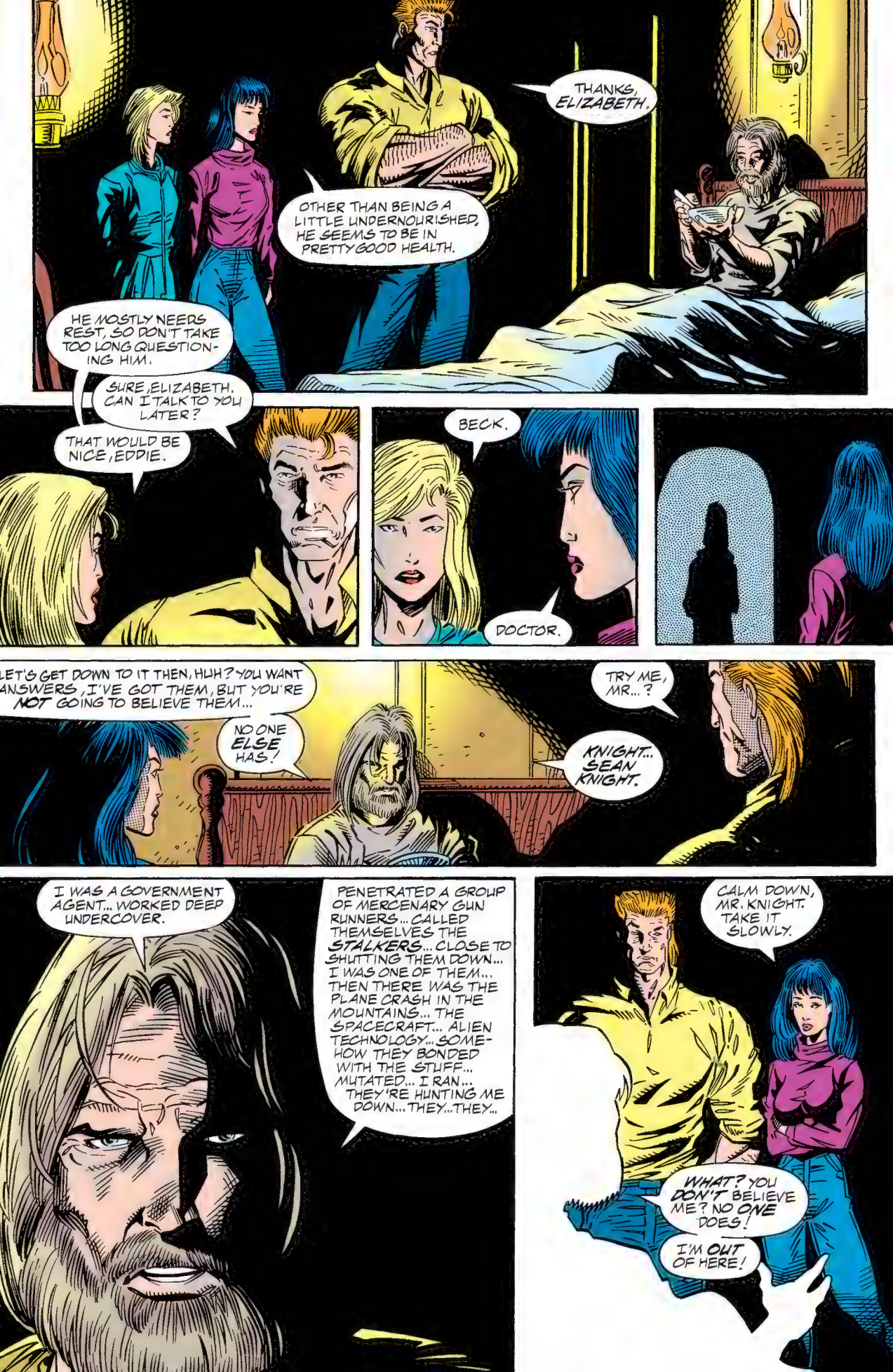
* EDDIE'S SYMBIOTIC SUIT, NATCH. --DANNY

...LIKE NOW!
PTOOM
PTOOM
PTOOM
PTOOM
ARGH! YOU... YOU... SHOT US!
HELP ME... I'M HURT... I'M DYING... I'M... I'M...
...JUST KIDDING!
MY OTHER CANNOT BE HURT BY BULLETS, SO...
...WHY DON'T WE LOSE THE GUNS?


YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T PICK ON PEOPLE WHO CAN'T DEFEND THEMSELVES.
IT'S NOT VERY NICE.
MY NAME'S... B-BADILINO... I'M A GOVERNMENT AGENT... YOU ARE INTERFERING WITH AN... OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION!
DID YOU SAY A GOVERNMENT AGENT?
OH, THAT WILL MAKE US TRUST YOU!
KTANG
LOOKS LIKE THE FIGHT'S ALL GONE OUT OF YOU. NIGHTY NIGHT, MR. BADILINO!
BECK WILL BE PROUD OF US. WE DIDN'T KILL HIM.
...WE DON'T THINK WE DID!

NOW HOW ABOUT YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HMMPH! SENSITIVE LITTLE DEVIL.
GUESS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BRING THEM BOTH WITH US TO THE UNDERGROUND CITY IF WE WANT TO GET ANY ANSWERS.
BRINGS OUT THE OLD INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER INSTINCTS IN ME.
FEELS ALMOST AS GOOD AS BREAKING SKULLS.
ALMOST.
THE TARGET HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. WE HAVE HIM.
EXTRACTION MAY BE COMPLICATED BY THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS.
RENDEZVOUS ON MY SIGNAL. LET'S FINISH THIS AS A UNIT.


A SHORT TIME LATER...
WAP!
BUT, BECK, WE DIDN'T KILL THEM!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM VENOM!
IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME... DO IT AS EDDIE BROCK... OR DON'T DO IT AT ALL!
WE... I'M... TRYING, BECK. I WANT TO SHOW YOU WE DON'T HAVE TO HURT PEOPLE.
BUT YOU WEREN'T THERE.
THE BIG GUY WAS CHASING THE OTHER GUY WITH A GUN. I CAN'T LET AN INNOCENT PERSON COME TO HARM BECAUSE OF MY INACTION.
WE HAVE TAKEN A VOW TO PROTECT AND AVENGE THE INNOCENT. IT'S WHAT WE DO. YOU KNOW THAT.
I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL, EDDIE, BUT I WORRY.
YOU CAN'T GO AROUND KILLING PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE YOU THINK IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
I'VE BEEN SPENDING ALL MY ENERGY AND TIME FIGHTING CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT TRY TO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.
IF YOU EXPECT ME TO CARE FOR YOU THE WAY YOU CARE FOR ME...
...YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT THAT'S WHO I AM. IT'S WHAT I DO.
I'LL TRY, BECK, I'LL TRY.
EDDIE! EDDIE! ONE OF THEM IS COMIN' TO!
COME ON, EDDIE, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOTTEN INTO.

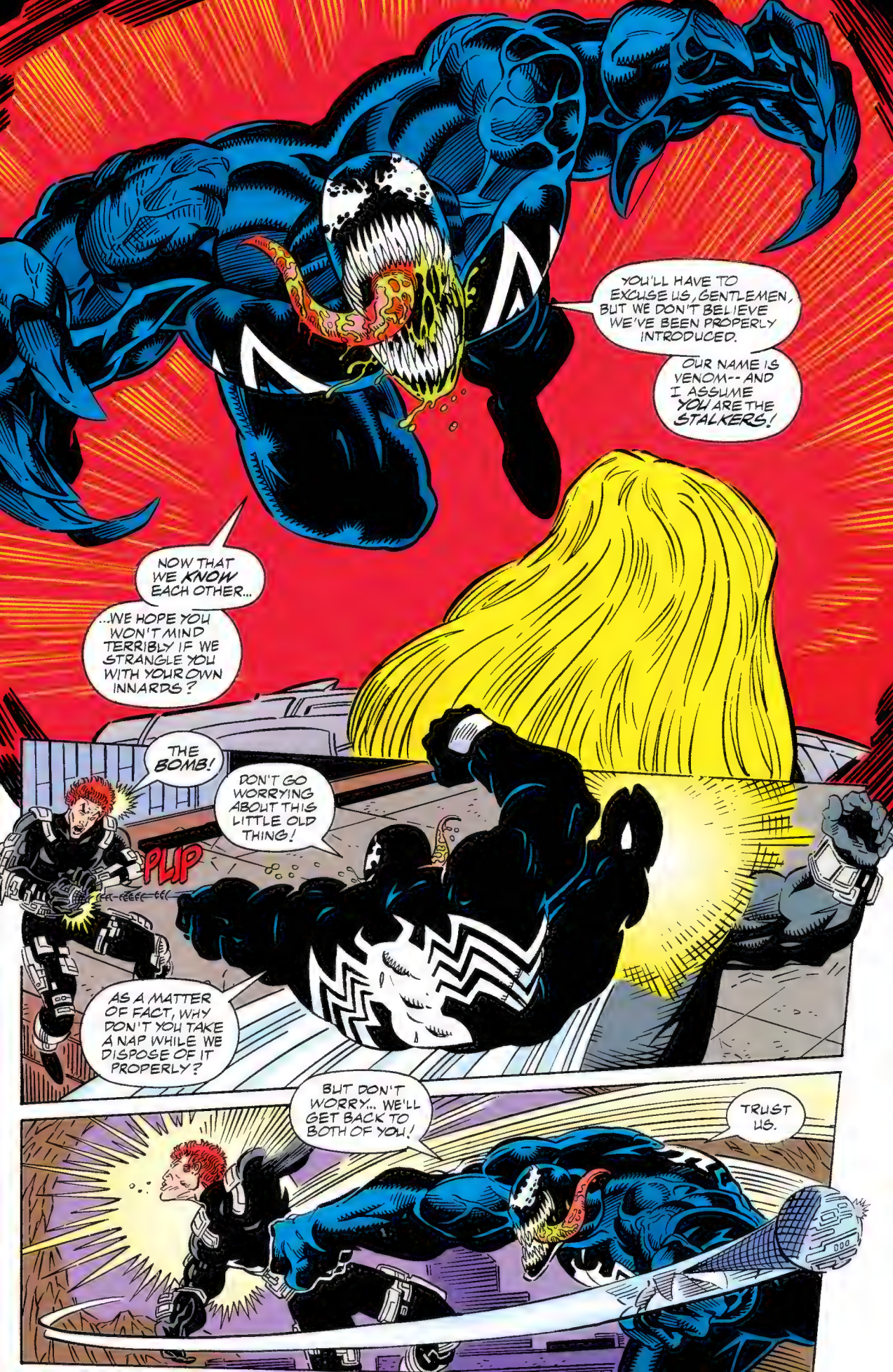

THANKS, ELIZABETH.
OTHER THAN BEING A LITTLE UNDERNOURISHED, HE SEEMS TO BE IN PRETTY GOOD HEALTH.
HE MOSTLY NEEDS REST, SO DON'T TAKE TOO LONG QUESTIONING HIM.
SURE, ELIZABETH. CAN I TALK TO YOU LATER?
THAT WOULD BE NICE, EDDIE.
BECK.
DOCTOR.
LET'S GET DOWN TO IT THEN, HUH? YOU WANT ANSWERS, I'VE GOT THEM, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THEM...
NO ONE ELSE HAS!
TRY ME, MR...?
KNIGHT... SEAN KNIGHT.
I WAS A GOVERNMENT AGENT... WORKED DEEP UNDERCOVER.
PENETRATED A GROUP OF MERCENARY GUN RUNNERS... CALLED THEMSELVES THE STALKERS... CLOSE TO SHUTTING THEM DOWN... I WAS ONE OF THEM... THEN THERE WAS THE PLANE CRASH IN THE MOUNTAINS... THE SPACECRAFT... ALIEN TECHNOLOGY... SOMEHOW THEY BONDED WITH THE STUFF... MUTATED... I RAN... THEY'RE HUNTING ME DOWN... THEY... THEY...
CALM DOWN, MR. KNIGHT. TAKE IT SLOWLY.
WHAT? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? NO ONE DOES!
I'M OUT OF HERE!

NO. I BELIEVE YOU. THAT'S WHY I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
SIT DOWN!
WE'LL DEAL WITH YOU WHEN WE'RE READY!
THAT IS, UNLESS YOU WANT TO TRY AND FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED IN THE ALLEY?
EDDIE... PLEASE? LET HIM SPEAK!
FINE. TALK, BUDDY! BUT MAKE IT FAST!
NO PROBLEM. LET ME JUST..
I'LL SNAP THE ARM IF YOU TRY THAT AGAIN.
IT'S MY I.D. I'M A GOVERNMENT AGENT.

IF YOU KEEP SAYING THAT, THEN I'M NEVER GOING TO TRUST YOU!
WHAT-EVER.
THE NAME'S BADILINO. I CAME WEST LOOKING FOR KNIGHT BECAUSE I THOUGHT THE STALKERS MIGHT HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO A MAN NAMED HELLGATE I'M TRACKING DOWN.
I WANTED TO GET KNIGHT OFF THE STREETS AND OFFER HIM SOME PROTECTION.
NO! NO GOVERNMENT! I HAVE NO USE FOR IT ANYMORE. THEY'RE NO GOOD AT PROTECTING THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED PROTECTING.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOMEONE... SOMETHING MORE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF HERE, BADILINO! WE'LL HELP THE MAN WITH HIS PROBLEM.
IF ANY OF THOSE MERCS COME LOOKING FOR HIM HERE...THEY'LL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH US!
I--
FRAKOOM
BECK! GET DOWN!
THE UNDERGROUND CITY IS OUR HOME!
WHOEVER CAUSED THAT EXPLOSION IS IN REAL BIG TROUBLE!

WHO THE--?
NOW THAT I HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION...
YOU HAVE THIRTY SECONDS TO PRODUCE SEAN KNIGHT.
IF HE'S NOT HERE BY THEN, BRIGGS WILL LEVEL ANOTHER OF YOUR BUILDINGS.
AND THIS TIME IT WILL BE ONE THAT IS FULLY OCCUPIED.
YOU NOW HAVE TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS.
BECK! GET EVERYONE INTO THE BASEMENT.
BADILINO, HELP KNIGHT DOWN THERE--
HEY! WHERE DID KNIGHT GO TO?

HERE I AM, TRENT.
KILL ME AND BE DONE WITH IT!
I'M TIRED OF RUNNING.
SO TIRED.
YOU KNOW, I LIKED YOU, KNIGHT!
I CONSIDERED YOU A FRIEND! YOU COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF US... COULD HAVE HAD THIS POWER... TOO BAD YOU WERE A FED!
GOODBYE!
FWAM


YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE US, GENTLEMEN, BUT WE DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED.
OUR NAME IS VENOM-- AND I ASSUME YOU ARE THE STALKERS!
NOW THAT WE KNOW EACH OTHER...
...WE HOPE YOU WON'T MIND TERRIBLY IF WE STRANGLE YOU WITH YOUR OWN INNARDS?
THE BOMB!
DON'T GO WORRYING ABOUT THIS LITTLE OLD THING!
PLIP
AS A MATTER OF FACT, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A NAP WHILE WE DISPOSE OF IT PROPERLY?
BUT DON'T WORRY... WE'LL GET BACK TO BOTH OF YOU!
TRUST US.

KRAKOOM
WHAT'S THIS?
THAT WASN'T SUCH A BIG BAD EXPLOSION AFTER ALL! COULD YOU HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BLUFF US?
FRZZZT
NEITHER DO I!
THE SIZE OF THE EXPLOSION WAS A SIMPLE MISCALCULATION. WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF LEARNING TO UTILIZE OUR NEWLY ACQUIRED WEAPONRY.
DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND US HERE, BUT YOU MADE A BIG MISTAKE! BECAUSE NOW WE'RE GOING TO RIP YOUR HEADS OFF YOUR SHOULDERS!
AND WE DON'T BLUFF!
THOUGH YOU WILL SOON DISCOVER THAT WE ARE QUITE ADEPT AT THE USE OF SOME OF IT!
RAIDEN?
I GOT HIM, TRENT!
BRIGGS! GET YOUR SORRY BUTT OVER HERE... AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING USEFUL IN YOUR BAG OF TRICKS!

LOOKEY HERE! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE THIS THINGAMABOB!
SEEMS TO BE GIVING OFF A COMBINATION OF HIGH FREQUENCY SOUND AND INTENSE HEAT!
I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT!
KASS, YOU WANT A COUPLE OF SHOTS BEFORE I FRY THE UGLY SUCKER?
HMMPH! IT IS LOOKING TO ME...
ENOUGH, KASS. WE'RE LOSING SIGHT OF WHY WE CAME HERE.
FOR INTERFERING WITH OUR PERSONAL BUSINESS... YOU, CREATURE, AS WELL AS KNIGHT, SHALL DIE!
...THAT IT IS ONLY A COUPLE OF PUNCHES THAT HE WILL BE TAKING-- THOUGH IT IS FEELING GOOD TO BE USING MY ENHANCED STRENGTH AGAINST A BEING OF FLESH, BLOOD AND BONE. SO GOOD!

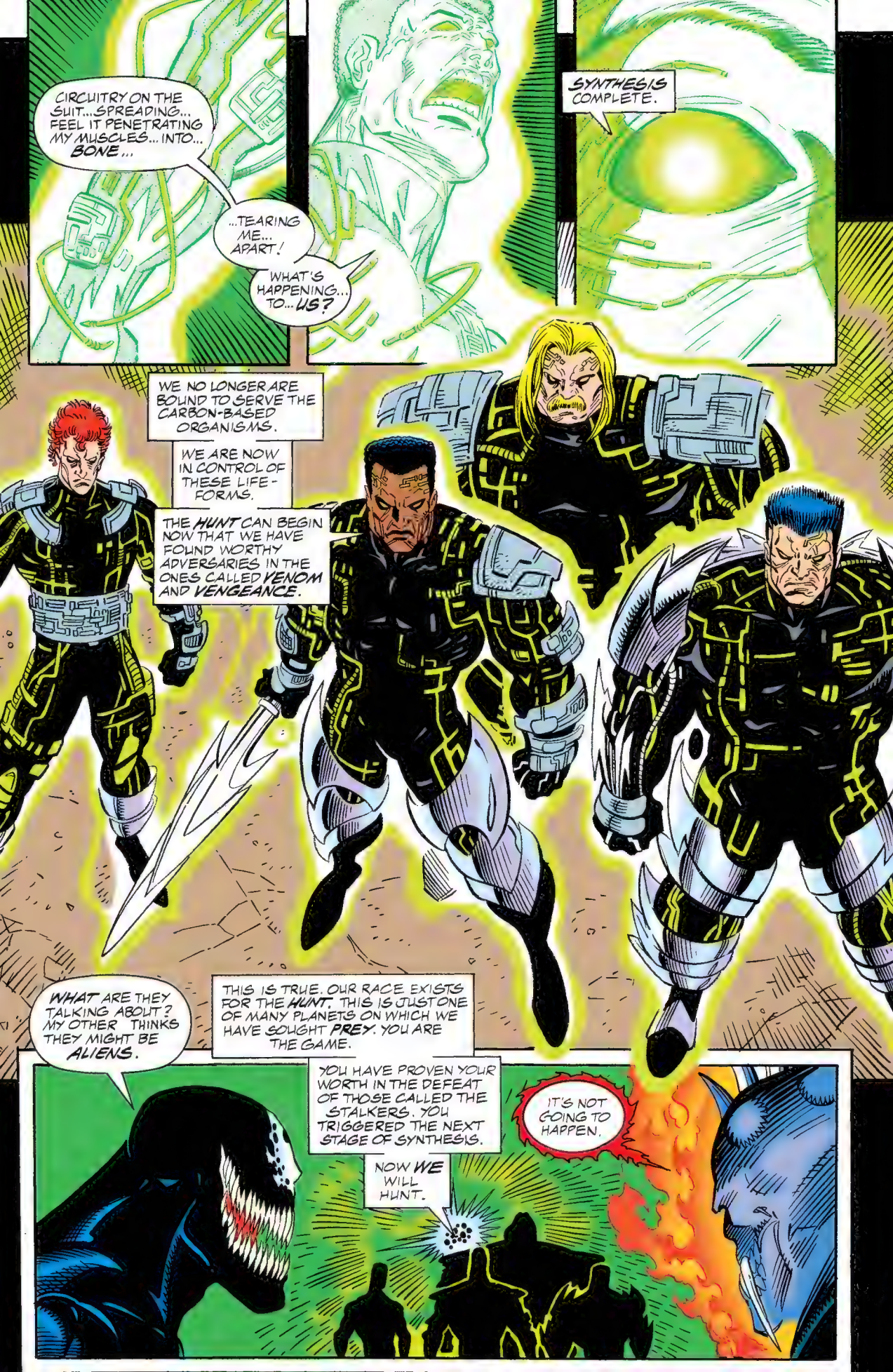
OMIGOD! EDDIE! THEY'RE KILLING HIM! WE HAVE TO HELP HIM! SOMEONE PLEASE!?
IT'S UP TO ME.
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS! AFTER THE PAIN THAT HELLGATE PUT ME THROUGH,* I SWORE I WOULDN'T UNDERGO THE TRANSFORMATION UNTIL I FACED HIM AGAIN!
BUT IF I DON'T, THEN AT LEAST TWO MEN ARE GOING TO DIE.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR SOME...
*SEE GHOST RIDER #52. --DANNY
...VENGEANCE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU GUYS ARE USING TO TEAR INTO VENOM, BUT...
...THIS IS CALLED HELLFIRE!
AND IT HURTS A WHOLE LOT!
OOH! IMPRESSIVE! BUT I'VE GOT A FEW OTHER THINGS YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING, MATE!
WHAT--?
AARRRGH!
WHAT IS THAT THING, BRIGGS?
CAN'T RIGHTLY SAY, BUT IT'S LIKE WITH ALL THE OTHER WEAPONS, IT'S ALMOST LIKE I CAN HEAR THEM TALKING TO ME IN MY MIND...TELLING ME HOW TO USE THEM.
LET'S WRAP IT UP HERE. KILL THIS THING AND THEN KNIGHT. I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR THESE AMATEURS--
EXCUSE ME...
HUGPH--!

...BUT WHO ARE THE AMATEURS?
NOW... BADILINO, RIGHT? DO WE KNOW YOU? YOU LOOK A LITTLE LIKE THE ONE CALLED GHOST RIDER, BUT... DIFFERENT.
WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE PROPERLY INTRODUCED AFTER WE'RE FINISHED WITH THESE.
GO FOR IT.
ENOUGH!
FRZATTT
ELECTRICITY HURTS US, BUT IT DOESN'T KILL US.
JUST MAKES US ANGRIER!
AND YOU HAVE MADE US ABOUT AS ANGRY AS WE CAN GET!
THIS UNDERGROUND CITY IS A SPECIAL PLACE...

...A PLACE UNDER OUR PROTECTION!
A PLACE WHERE ALL INTRUDERS MUST DIE!
LOOKS LIKE THE TWO I TOOK OUT ARE BACK UP AND READY FOR SOME MORE.
YOU WANT TO FINISH THEM OFF?
WITH PLEASURE.
AND I'LL TRY AND NOT BE SO GENTLE THIS TIME!

WE THINK IT'S TIME WE RIP OUT THEIR SPINES...
...JUST TO MAKE SURE THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN TO ME.
LET ME TAKE THE LITTLE GUY. I'M STILL HURTING FROM THAT SPIKED THING HE JAMMED INTO MY CHEST--!
WHOA! SUDDENLY THEY'RE LEVITATING-- ENCASED IN ENERGY! ANY IDEAS ABOUT THIS, VENOM?
NOT A CLUE.
BUT HOW BAD COULD IT BE? THE FOUR OF THEM SEEM TO BE IN PLENTY OF PAIN!


CIRCUITRY ON THE SUIT... SPREADING... FEEL IT PENETRATING MY MUSCLES... INTO... BONE...
...TEARING ME... APART!
WHAT'S HAPPENING... TO... US?
SYNTHESIS COMPLETE.
WE NO LONGER ARE BOUND TO SERVE THE CARBON-BASED ORGANISMS.
WE ARE NOW IN CONTROL OF THESE LIFE-FORMS.
THE HUNT CAN BEGIN NOW THAT WE HAVE FOUND WORTHY ADVERSARIES IN THE ONES CALLED VENOM AND VENGEANCE.
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT? MY OTHER THINKS THEY MIGHT BE ALIENS.
THIS IS TRUE. OUR RACE EXISTS FOR THE HUNT. THIS IS JUST ONE OF MANY PLANETS ON WHICH WE HAVE SOUGHT PREY. YOU ARE THE GAME.
YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR WORTH IN THE DEFEAT OF THOSE CALLED THE STALKERS. YOU TRIGGERED THE NEXT STAGE OF SYNTHESIS.
NOW WE WILL HUNT.
IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

IT WILL HAPPEN!
WE WILL ENSURE IT COMES TO PASS. HOSTAGES WILL BE TAKEN.
FOR NOW, WE MUST CONTINUE OUR SYNTHESIS AND FORMULATE STRATEGIES.
PROVE YOUR WORTH, PREY, AND THESE BEINGS WILL LIVE!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING? THOSE BEAMS ARE MISSING US--
--AND SNAGGING EVERYONE ELSE AROUND US!
WE CAN'T TOUCH THEM!
BECK!
EDDIE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
DON'T WORRY, BECK! WE WON'T LET THEM TAKE...
...YOU!
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, PREY.
IF YOU DO NOT JOIN THE HUNT, THEN...
...HOW WELL DO YOU THINK THOSE WE ARE TELEPORTING AWAY WILL FARE AGAINST US?
THE HUNT BEGINS TOMORROW!

THEY WANT A HUNT!
THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE IN FOR!
WE'LL EAT THEIR--!
THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE ISN'T GOING TO GET THEM BACK.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND THEM.
HOW? HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND THEM?
COME ON... EDDIE? YOU HEARD THEM. THEY WANT THIS HUNT.
THEY HAD TO HAVE LEFT SOME CLUE AS TO HOW TO FIND THEM.
ME...
...THEY LEFT ME.
KNIGHT?
I CAN LEAD YOU TO THE STALKERS.
GOOD, BUT WE'RE NOT PLAYING THEIR GAMES! STARTING NOW...
...WE'RE THE HUNTERS!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

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VENOM
NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE
PART 2 OF 4
VENOM AND VENGEANCE AGAINST THE PARASITIC POWER OF THE STALKERS!

SOMEWHERE ON A BACK ROAD IN WASHINGTON STATE...
SEAN KNIGHT, FORMER AGENT FOR THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS, CAME TO THE BUCKET OF BLOOD BAR AND GRILL SEEKING INFORMATION.
...SEAN KNIGHT IS MOMENTS AWAY FROM DEATH.
MAYBE THE MONTHS OF LIVING THE LIFE OF A HOMELESS MAN ON THE RUN HAVE MADE HIS UNDERCOVER SKILLS A LITTLE RUSTY.
MAYBE THE MERCENARIES WHO FREQUENT THE BAR HAVE A SIXTH SENSE REGARDING FORMER GOVERNMENT AGENTS.
MAYBE KNIGHT SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED THE STALKERS BY NAME.
NO MATTER THE REASON...
WOULD YOU CARE TO TALK ABOUT THIS, GENTLEMEN?
CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
SO MUCH FOR THE SUBTLE APPROACH.
TIME FOR YOU GUYS TO MEET A COUPLE OF ACQUAINTANCES. OF MINE.
THEY GO BY THE NAMES OF...

STAN LEE PRESENTS: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE PART II

HUNTER'S MOON

HOWARD MACKIE · RON LIM · AL MILGROM
STORY AND ART

KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER

TOM SMITH
COLORIST

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

...VENOM AND VENGEANCE!

KNIGHT, YOU SAID THAT YOU COULD LEAD US TO THE ALIENS WHO KIDNAPPED THE CITIZENS FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY!

YOU SAID IT WOULD BE EASY!

NO. I SAID I KNEW OF THIS PLACE.

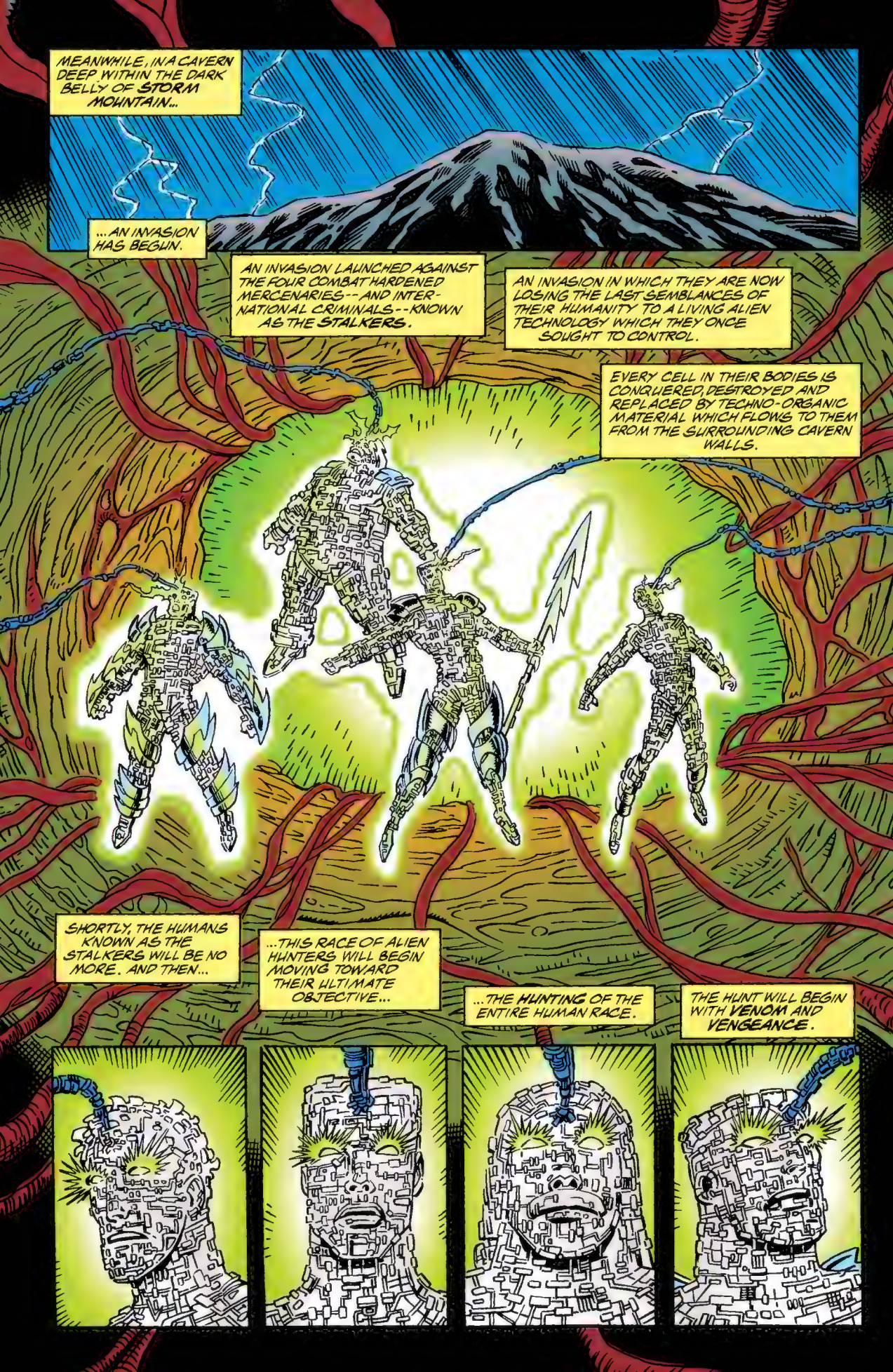
YEAH! YOU SAID YOU KNEW THIS PLACE.

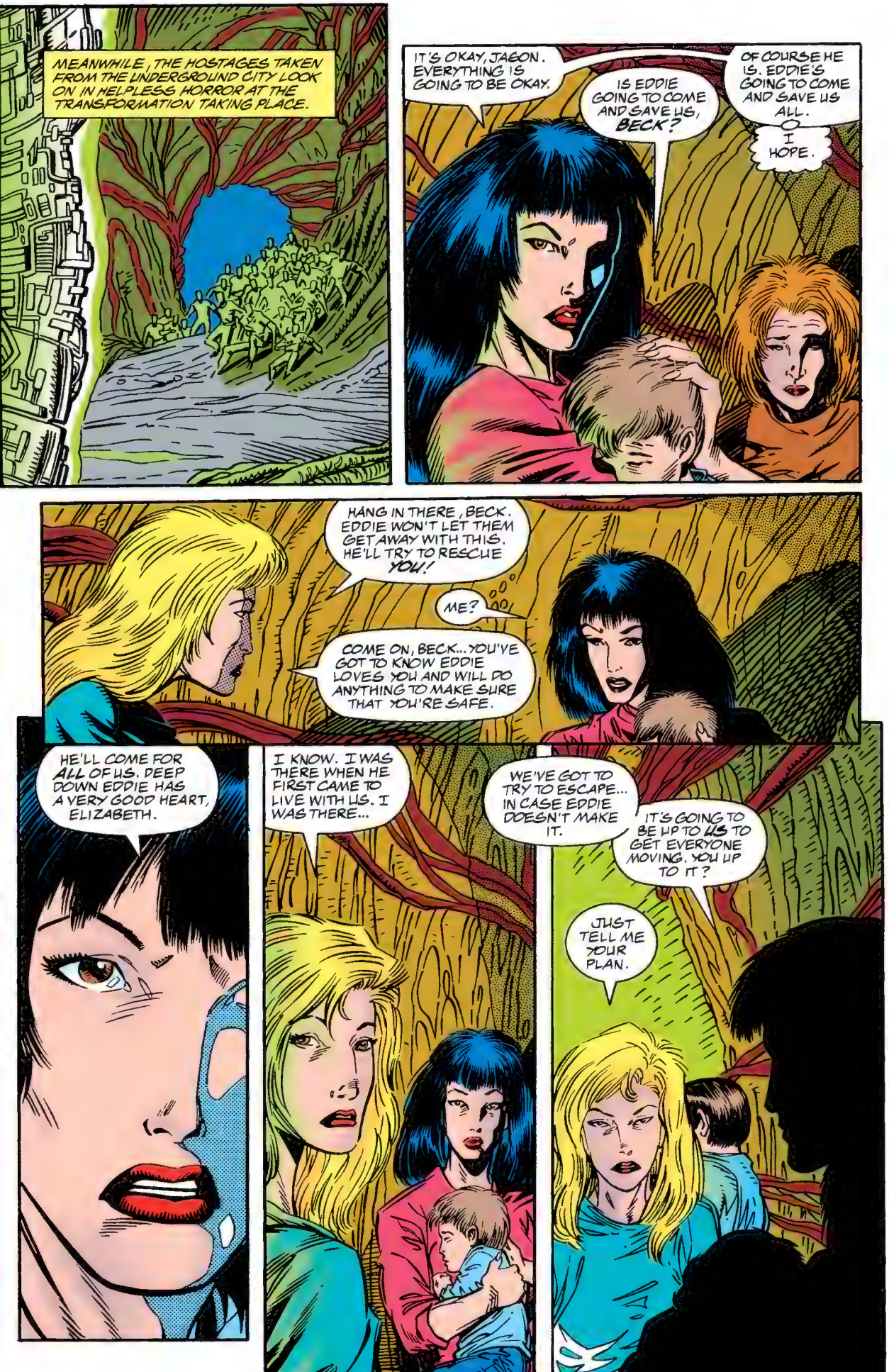
WELL, ARE WE ANY CLOSER TO FINDING THE STALKERS OR NOT?

YEAH, I THINK WE ARE.
THEIR REACTION WAS A GOOD SIGN. ALL I DID WAS MENTION THE STALKERS AND THE PLACE WENT WILD.
BUT THEY SEEMED MORE AFRAID THAN ANYTHING ELSE. AND THESE AREN'T THE TYPE OF MEN TO FRIGHTEN EASILY.
IT'S DEFINITELY HOPEFUL THAT THE STALKERS MAY STILL BE IN THE AREA.
HOPEFUL?!!
WE WANT MORE THAN HOPEFUL!
WE WANT THE PEOPLE FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY! WE WANT BECK AND ELIZABETH!
WE WANT THE STALKERS!
WE WANT THEIR HEADS ON A STICK!
CHILL OUT, VENOM! KNIGHT IS TRYING TO HELP! WITHOUT HIM--

WITHOUT HIM, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
WE BROUGHT HIM AND YOU TO THE UNDERGROUND CITY.
THE STALKERS FOLLOWED.
THEY WANTED HIM...
...BUT TOOK THOSE UNDER OUR PROTECTION INSTEAD. IF THEY ARE HURT...
IT'S UP TO US... ALL OF US... TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE NOT HURT.
AND IF THEY ARE... THEN WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE THAT DID IT PAY!
WE CANNOT FAIL THEM. WE CAN NOT FAIL.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO FAIL, VENOM. I WANT THEM AS BADLY AS YOU DO.
EVEN BEFORE THEY WERE TAKEN OVER BY THE ALIEN LIFE FORMS, THE STALKERS WERE RUTHLESS KILLERS.
YOU TWO ARE THE BEST CHANCE AT STOPPING THEM THAT WE HAVE.
LET'S GO. WE'VE GOT SOME GROUND TO COVER.

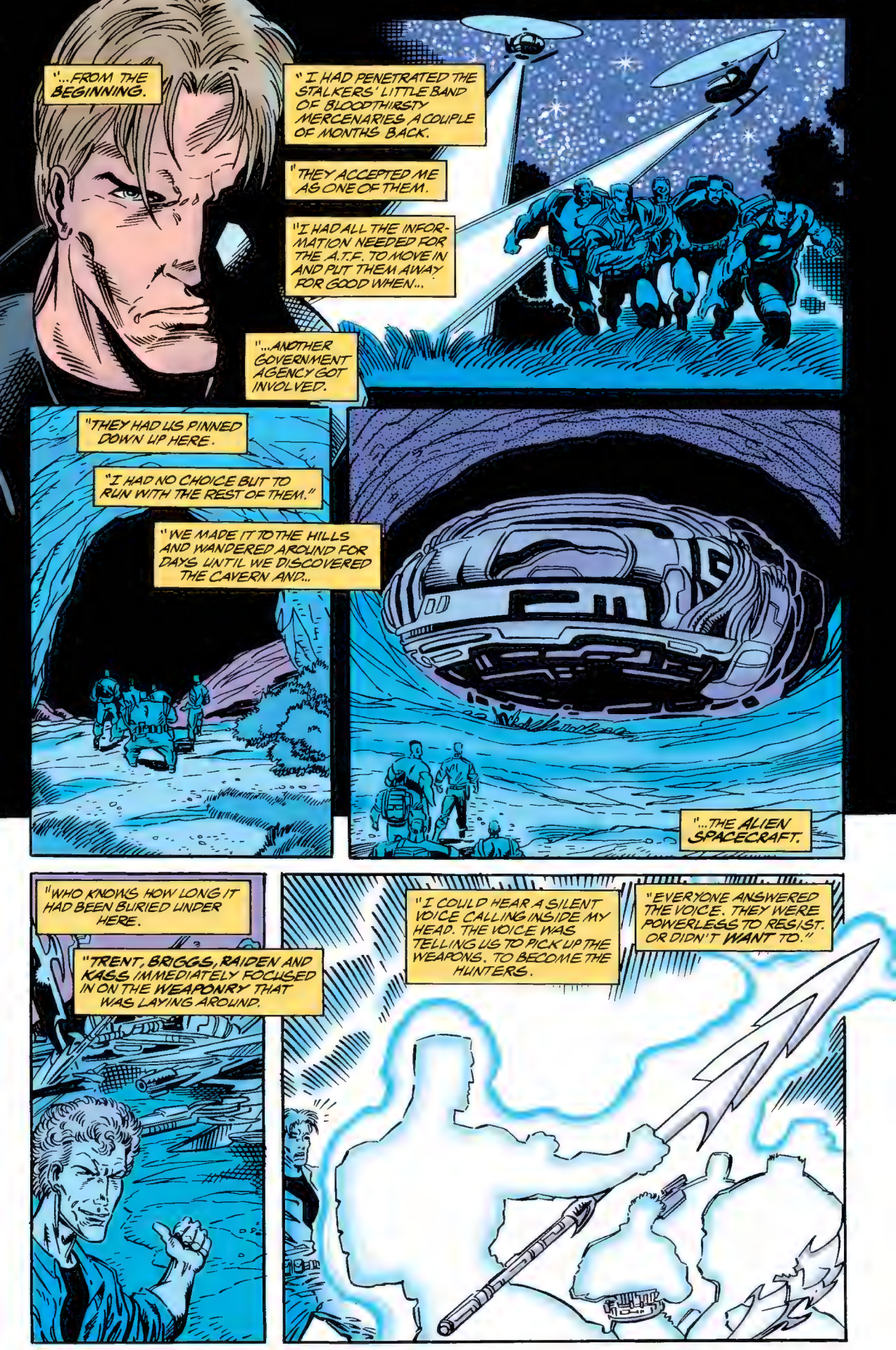
YOU UP FOR THIS, EDDIE?
BECK AND ELIZABETH NEED YOU. WE CAN ONLY DO IT IF WE WORK TOGETHER AND DON'T LOSE OUR COOL WITH THESE GUYS.
LIKE KNIGHT SAYS, THEY'RE TRAINED MERCENARIES... KILLERS. AND... IF THERE ARE ALIENS INVOLVED... WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE!
AFTER WE'RE DONE...
..THEY'LL ONLY BE DEAD!
"IF THERE ARE ALIENS INVOLVED"?
REMEMBER-- WHAT THEY REALLY WANT IS TO HURT YOU TWO.
AFTER ALL YOU SAW... AFTER WHAT THEY DID TO THE UNDERGROUND CITY... EVEN YOU TWO ARE DOUBTING ME?
THE TRICK IS TO FIND A BACK DOOR AND TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE.
COME ON! LET'S GATHER MY GEAR AND I'LL SHOW YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!
THE STALKERS AREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT TOO HARD TO FIND THEM.
* LAST ISSUE. --DANNY

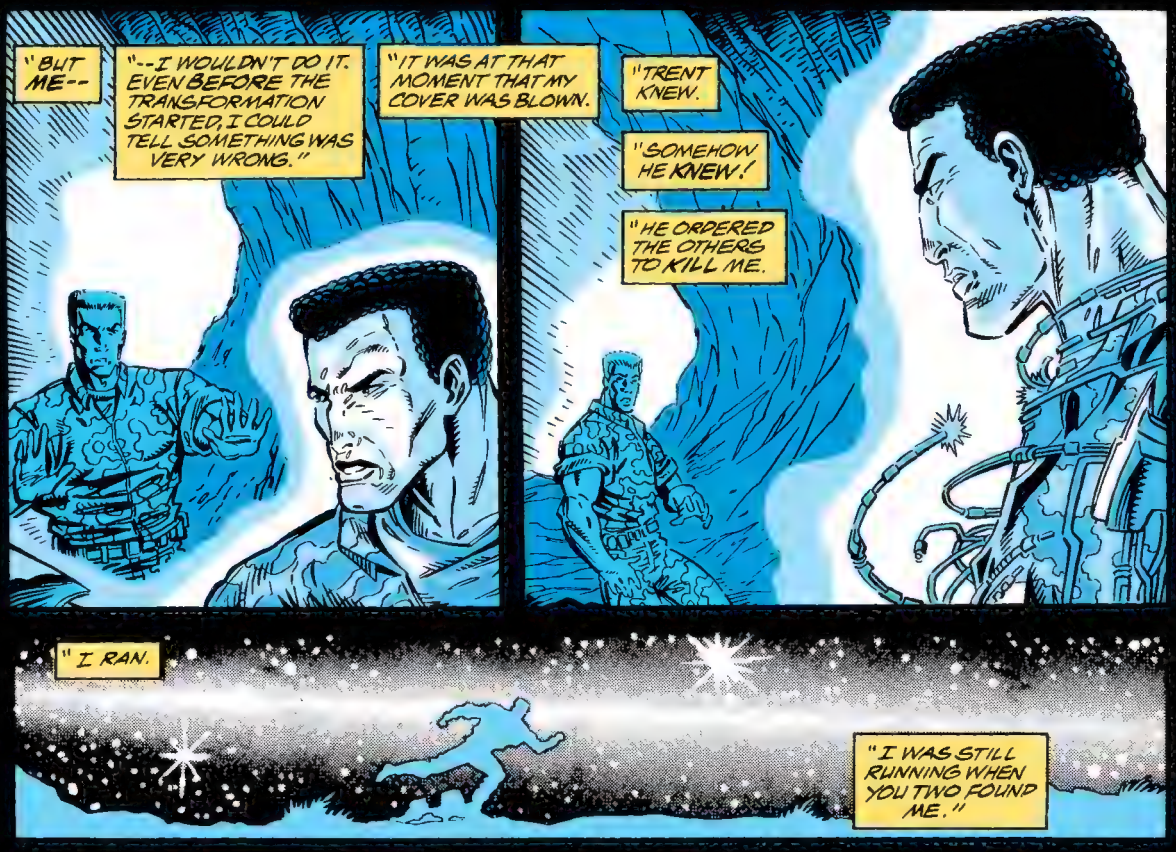

MEANWHILE, IN A CAVERN DEEP WITHIN THE DARK BELLY OF STORM MOUNTAIN...
...AN INVASION HAS BEGUN.
AN INVASION LAUNCHED AGAINST THE FOUR COMBAT HARDENED MERCENARIES--AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS--KNOWN AS THE STALKERS.
AN INVASION IN WHICH THEY ARE NOW LOSING THE LAST SEMBLANCES OF THEIR HUMANITY TO A LIVING ALIEN TECHNOLOGY WHICH THEY ONCE SOUGHT TO CONTROL.
EVERY CELL IN THEIR BODIES IS CONQUERED, DESTROYED AND REPLACED BY TECHNO-ORGANIC MATERIAL WHICH FLOWS TO THEM FROM THE SURROUNDING CAVERN WALLS.
SHORTLY, THE HUMANS KNOWN AS THE STALKERS WILL BE NO MORE. AND THEN...
...THIS RACE OF ALIEN HUNTERS WILL BEGIN MOVING TOWARD THEIR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE...
...THE HUNTING OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.
THE HUNT WILL BEGIN WITH VENOM AND VENGEANCE.

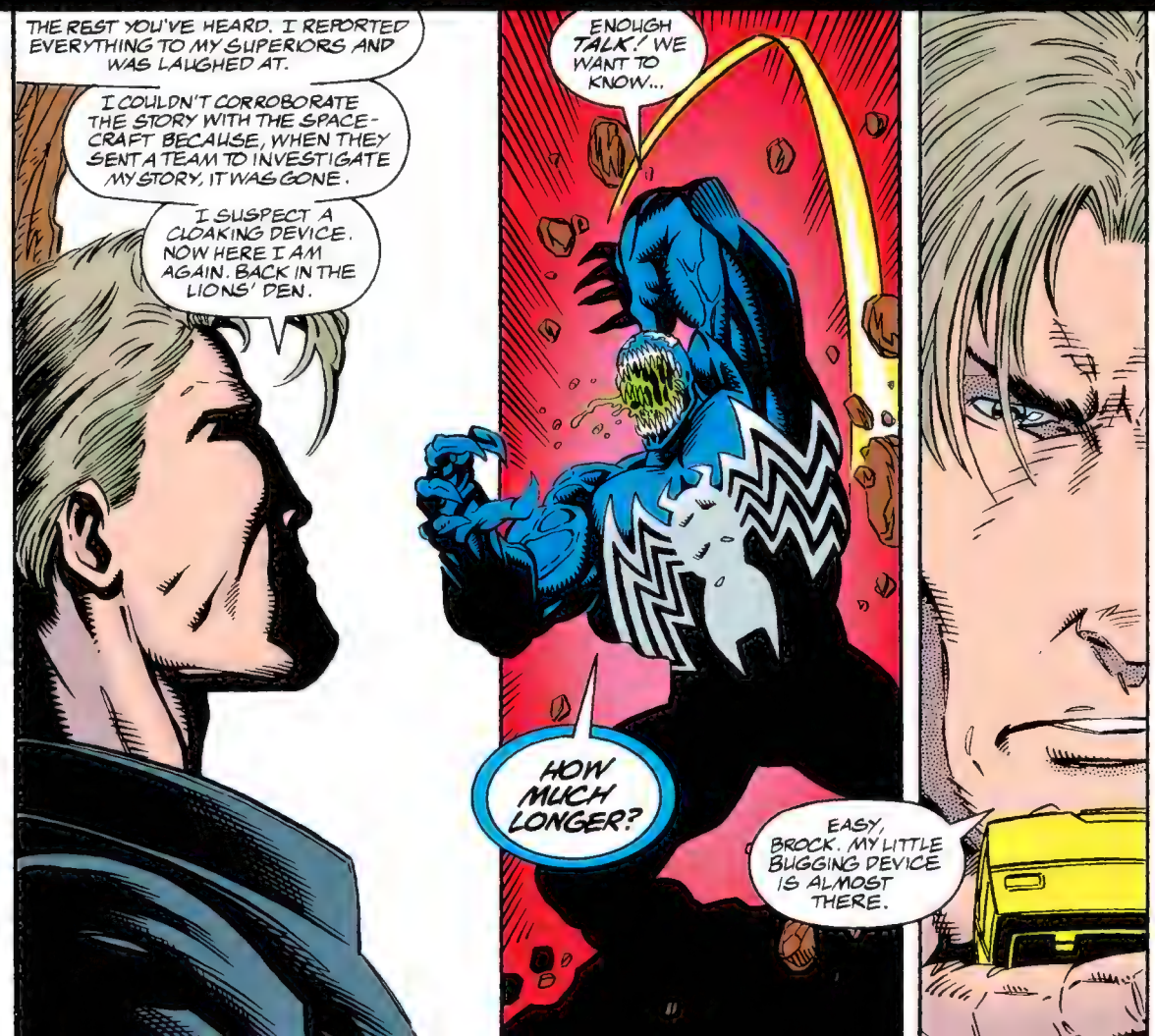

MEANWHILE, THE HOSTAGES TAKEN FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY LOOK ON IN HELPLESS HORROR AT THE TRANSFORMATION TAKING PLACE.
IT'S OKAY, JASON. EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY.
IS EDDIE GOING TO COME AND SAVE US, BECK?
OF COURSE HE IS. EDDIE'S GOING TO COME AND SAVE US ALL.
I HOPE.
HANG IN THERE, BECK. EDDIE WON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS. HE'LL TRY TO RESCUE YOU!
ME?
COME ON, BECK... YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW EDDIE LOVES YOU AND WILL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE SAFE.
HE'LL COME FOR ALL OF US. DEEP DOWN EDDIE HAS A VERY GOOD HEART, ELIZABETH.
I KNOW. I WAS THERE WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO LIVE WITH US. I WAS THERE...
WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO ESCAPE... IN CASE EDDIE DOESN'T MAKE IT.
IT'S GOING TO BE UP TO US TO GET EVERYONE MOVING. YOU UP TO IT?
JUST TELL ME YOUR PLAN.

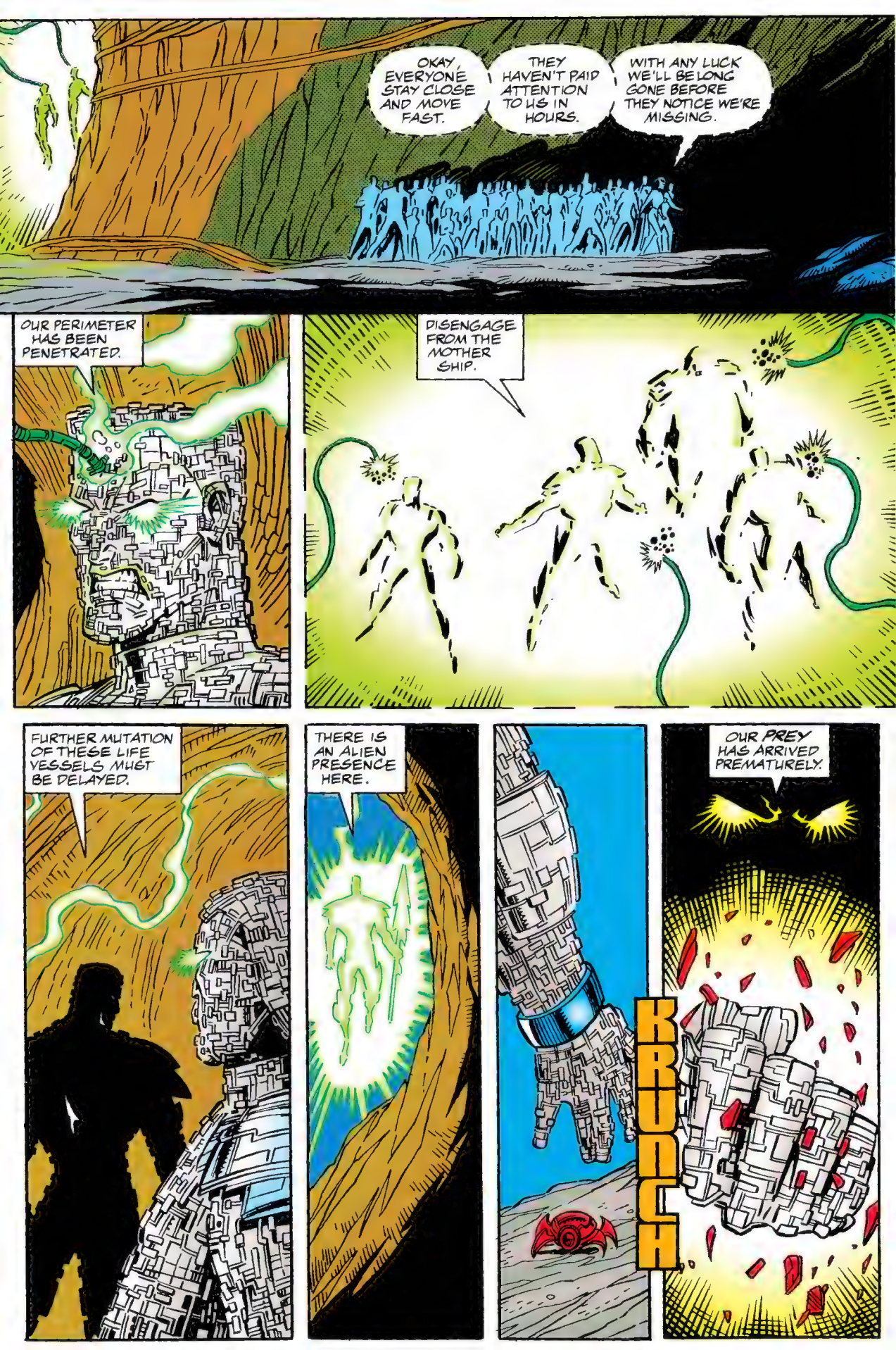
MEANWHILE, IN A TUNNEL WHICH RUNS STRAIGHT THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE MOUNTAIN...
OKAY... WE'RE IN.
MY PERSONAL BACK DOOR TO THE STALKERS.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE, KNIGHT?
I TOLD YOU ALREADY..
...THIS IS HOW I ESCAPED FROM BECOMING ONE OF THEM!
ENOUGH RIDDLES, KNIGHT. HOW ABOUT YOU GIVE US THE WHOLE STORY?
SURE. BUT FIRST A LITTLE ADVANCE INTELLIGENCE BEFORE WE ATTEMPT THIS HOSTAGE RESCUE.
THE KICKING IN DOORS, OPERATING BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS SCENARIO MAY WORK FOR YOU SUPER HERO TYPES, BUT...
... IT'S ALSO A GOOD WAY TO GET YOUR FRIENDS KILLED. WE NEED SOME INFORMATION BEFORE MAKING OUR MOVE...
...AND THIS BABY SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

WHERE DID YOU COME UP WITH ALL THIS STUFF? JUST YESTERDAY YOU WERE LIVING ON THE STREETS AND RUNNING FOR YOUR LIFE... NOW LOOK AT YOU!
HOW?
A FEW GOOD MEALS, THE BATH AND SHAVE ALL HELPED.
WHEN I WAS WORKING UNDERCOVER FOR THE A.T.F. I LEARNED TO IMPROVISE ON A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
I STILL HAVE CONTACTS IN THE INTELLIGENCE FIELD.
PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL WILLING TO SUPPLY ME WITH STUFF.
SOME OF IT IS S.H.I.E.L.D. ISSUE... THE REST I SCROUNGED UP FROM OTHER SOURCES. DIDN'T HAVE TOO MUCH TIME TO OUTFIT MYSELF PROPERLY.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE DONE ALL RIGHT.
I MAKE DO. NOW DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THE STORY OR NOT?
HE'S NOT GOING TO SETTLE DOWN. LET'S JUST BE GRATEFUL THAT HE'S WILLING TO WAIT THIS OUT.
IT'S THE WOMAN.
YEAH. ELIZABETH.
I THOUGHT IT WAS BECK. WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THAT VENOM WOULD TURN OUT TO BE A LADIES' MAN?
WHATEVER. HERE'S THE STORY...

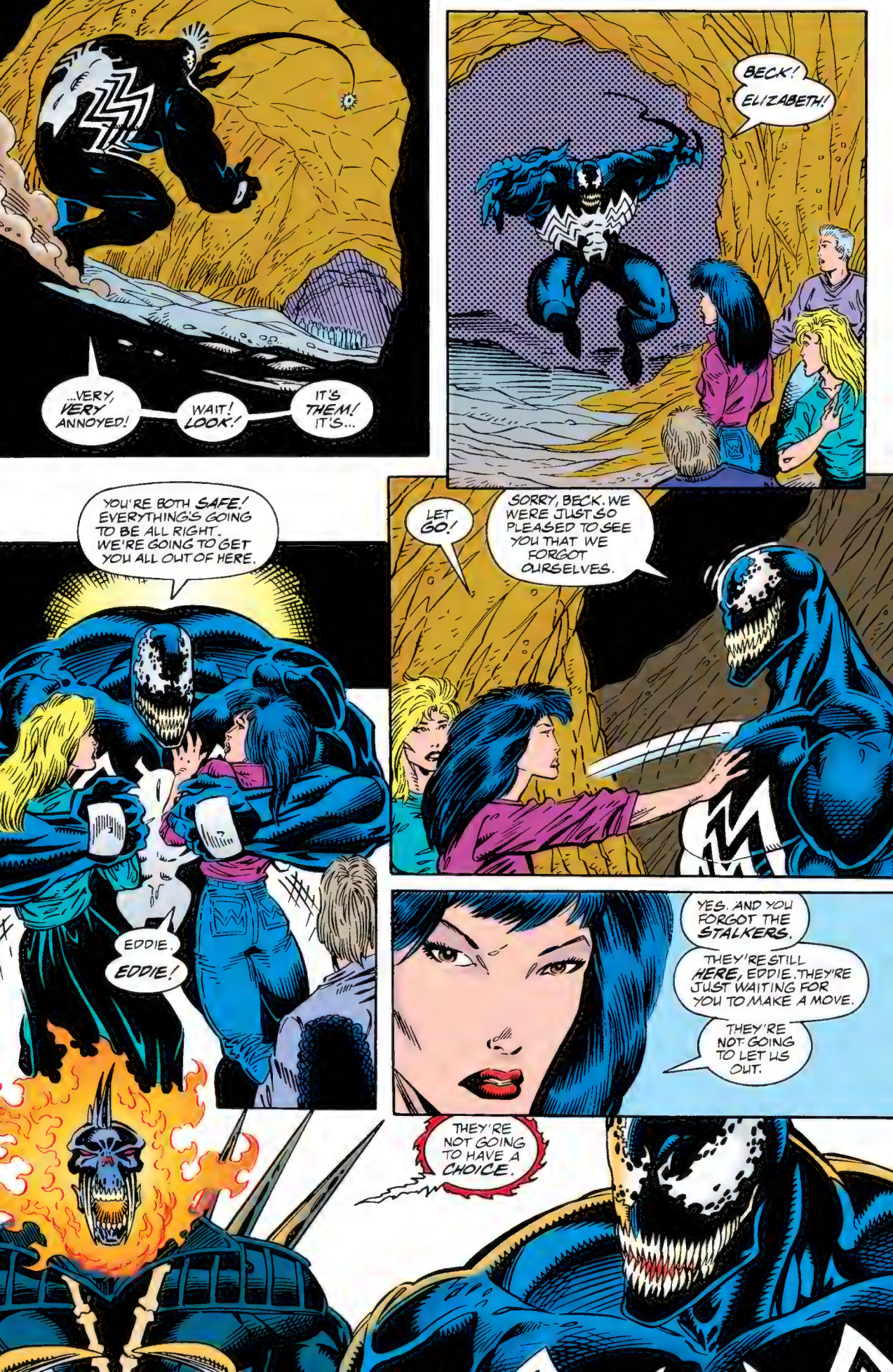

"...FROM THE BEGINNING.
"I HAD PENETRATED THE STALKERS' LITTLE BAND OF BLOODTHIRSTY MERCENARIES A COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK.
"THEY ACCEPTED ME AS ONE OF THEM.
"I HAD ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE A.T.F. TO MOVE IN AND PUT THEM AWAY FOR GOOD WHEN...
"...ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY GOT INVOLVED.
"THEY HAD US PINNED DOWN UP HERE.
"I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN WITH THE REST OF THEM."
"WE MADE IT TO THE HILLS AND WANDERED AROUND FOR DAYS UNTIL WE DISCOVERED THE CAVERN AND...
"...THE ALIEN SPACECRAFT.
"WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT HAD BEEN BURIED UNDER HERE.
"TRENT, BRIGGS, RAIDEN AND KASS IMMEDIATELY FOCUSED IN ON THE WEAPONRY THAT WAS LAYING AROUND.
"I COULD HEAR A SILENT VOICE CALLING INSIDE MY HEAD. THE VOICE WAS TELLING US TO PICK UP THE WEAPONS. TO BECOME THE HUNTERS.
"EVERYONE ANSWERED THE VOICE. THEY WERE POWERLESS TO RESIST. OR DIDN'T WANT TO."


"BUT ME--
"--I WOULDN'T DO IT. EVEN BEFORE THE TRANSFORMATION STARTED, I COULD TELL SOMETHING WAS VERY WRONG."
"IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT MY COVER WAS BLOWN.
"TRENT KNEW.
"SOMEHOW HE KNEW!
"HE ORDERED THE OTHERS TO KILL ME.
"I RAN.
"I WAS STILL RUNNING WHEN YOU TWO FOUND ME."

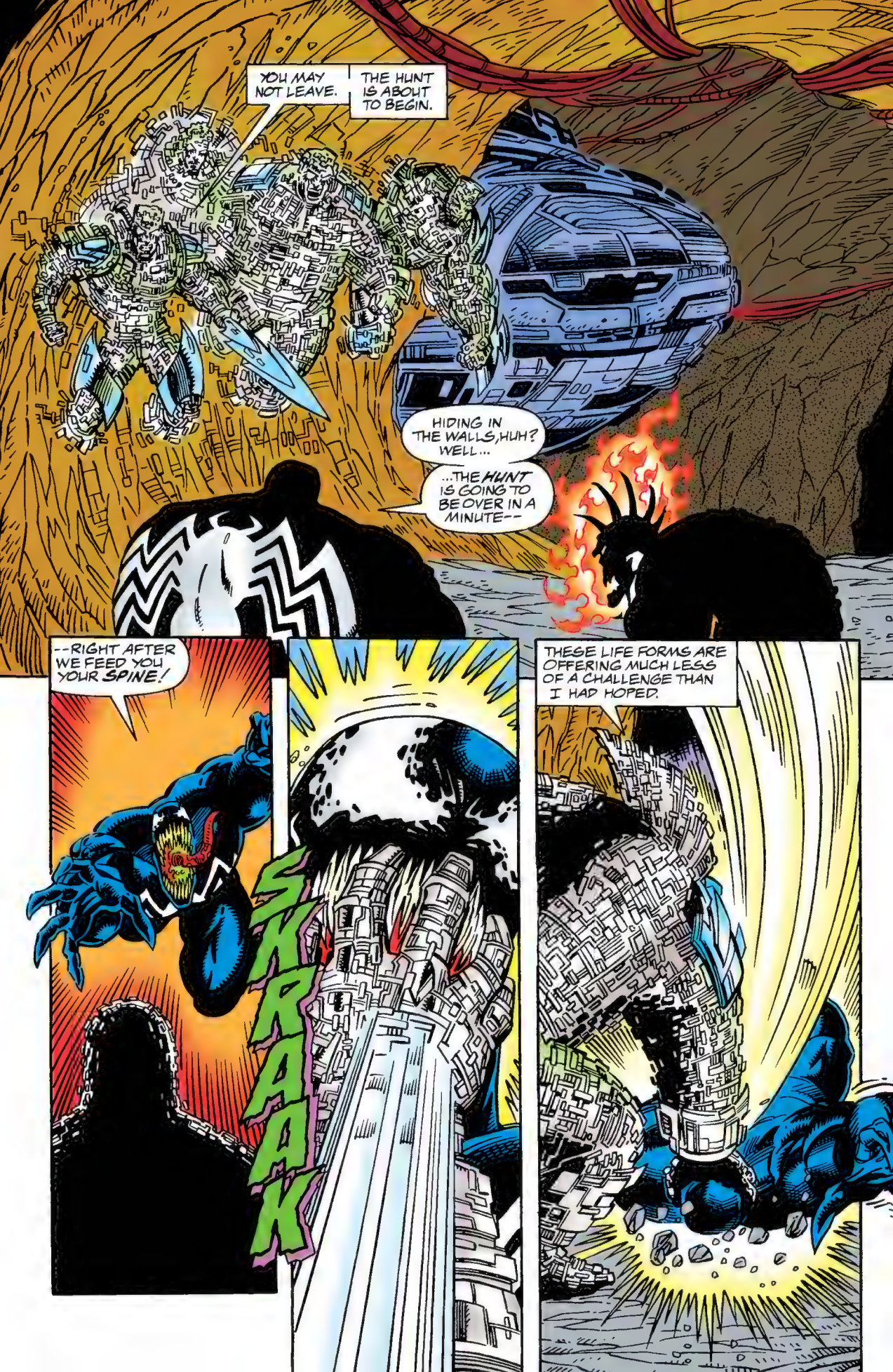

THE REST YOU'VE HEARD. I REPORTED EVERYTHING TO MY SUPERIORS AND WAS LAUGHED AT.
I COULDN'T CORROBORATE THE STORY WITH THE SPACE-CRAFT BECAUSE, WHEN THEY SENT A TEAM TO INVESTIGATE MY STORY, IT WAS GONE.
I SUSPECT A CLOAKING DEVICE. NOW HERE I AM AGAIN. BACK IN THE LIONS' DEN.
ENOUGH TALK! WE WANT TO KNOW...
HOW MUCH LONGER?
EASY, BROCK. MY LITTLE BUGGING DEVICE IS ALMOST THERE.

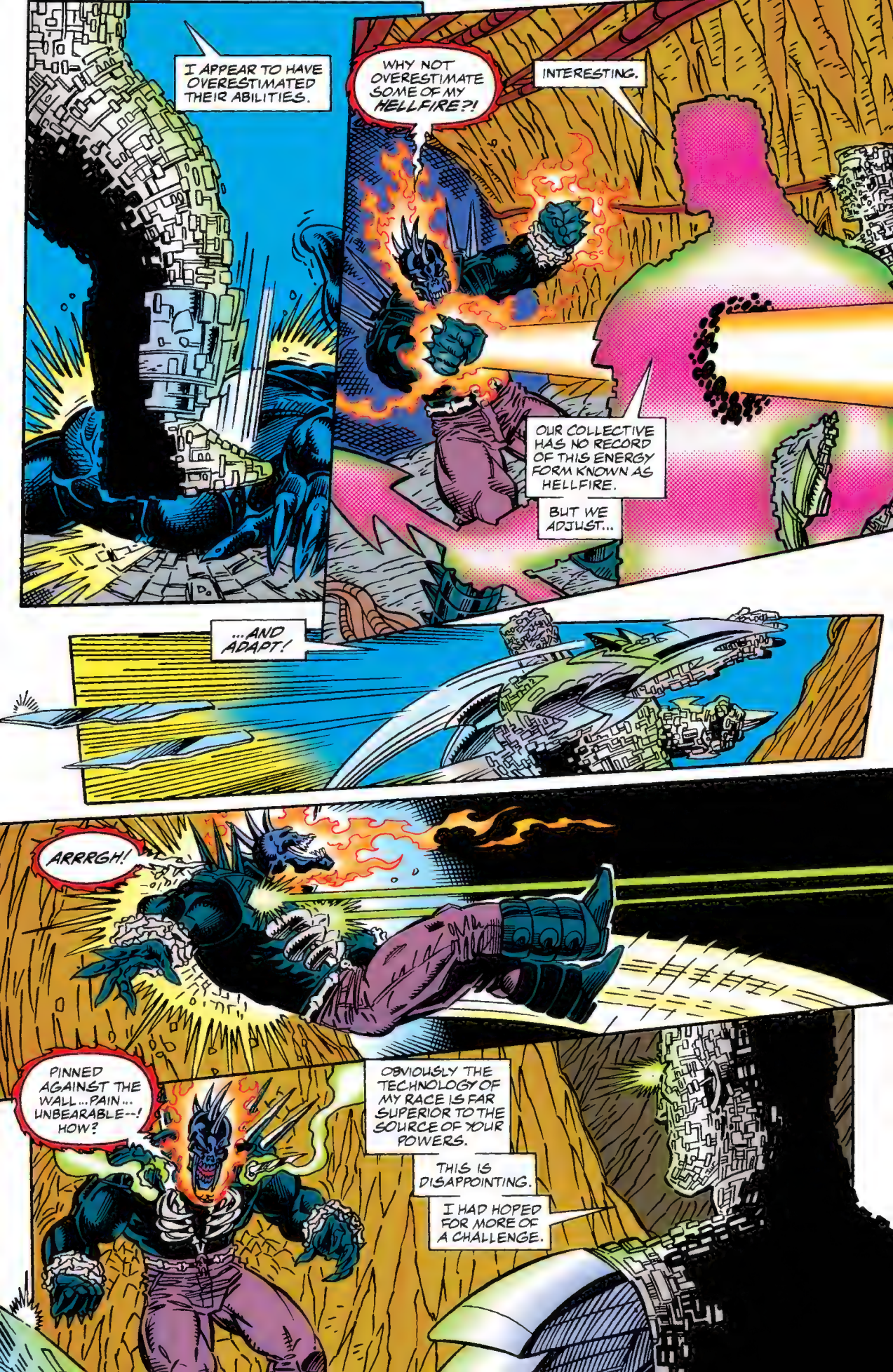

OKAY, EVERYONE STAY CLOSE AND MOVE FAST.
THEY HAVEN'T PAID ATTENTION TO US IN HOURS.
WITH ANY LUCK WE'LL BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEY NOTICE WE'RE MISSING.
OUR PERIMETER HAS BEEN PENETRATED.
DISENGAGE FROM THE MOTHER SHIP.
FURTHER MUTATION OF THESE LIFE VESSELS MUST BE DELAYED.
THERE IS AN ALIEN PRESENCE HERE.
OUR PREY HAS ARRIVED PREMATURELY.
KRUNCH

ONCE AGAIN, SUBLETY GOES OUT THE WINDOW.
SORRY FOR WASTING YOUR TIME, GUYS.
NOW LET'S DO IT YOUR WAY, VENOM. BUT...
...TRY AND SAVE SOME PART OF THE STALKERS FOR ME!
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY, KNIGHT...
...WE ARE FEELING RATHER ANNOYED WITH THESE STALKERS...

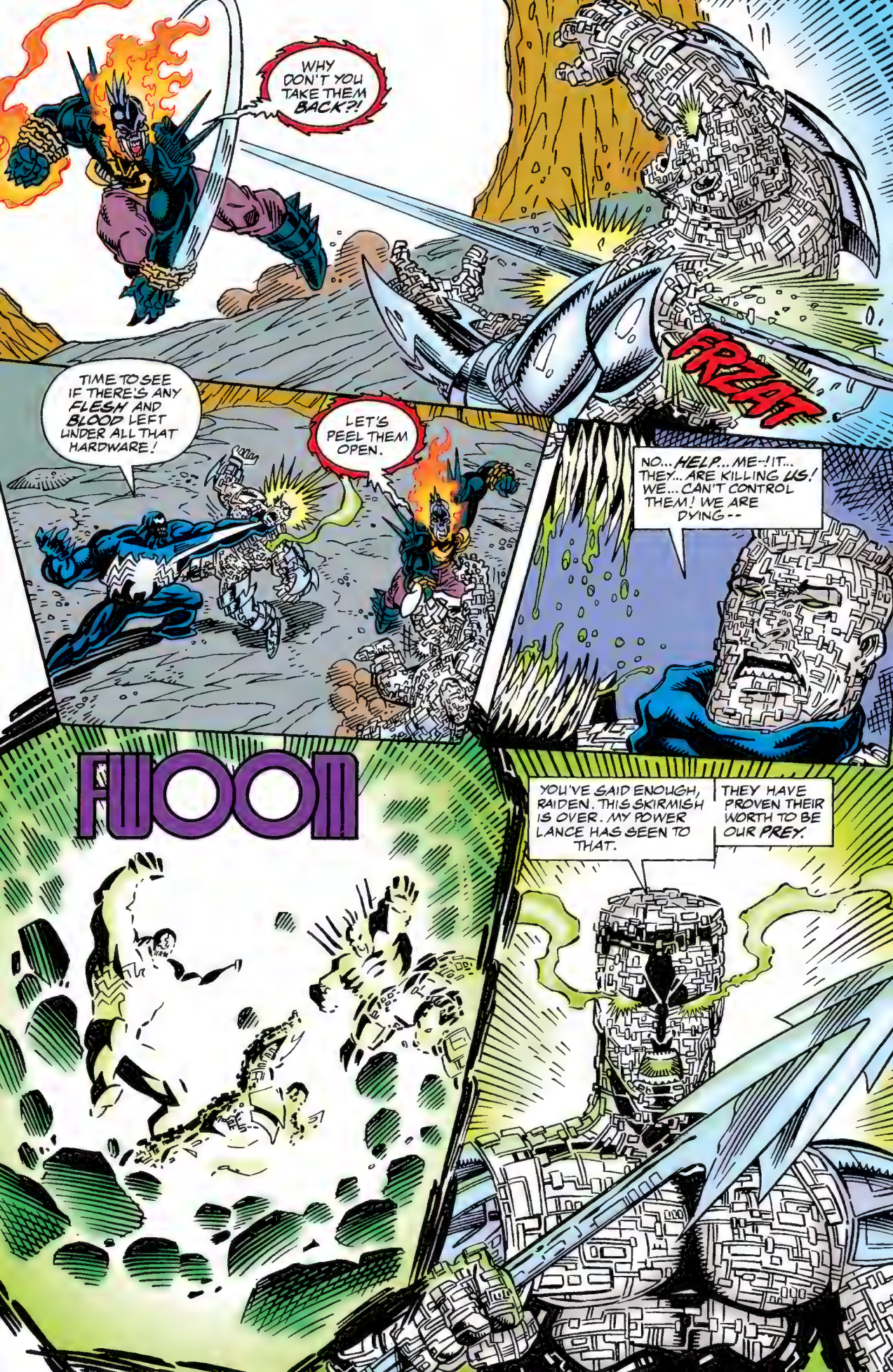

...VERY, VERY ANNOYED!
WAIT! LOOK!
IT'S THEM! IT'S...
BECK!
ELIZABETH!
YOU'RE BOTH SAFE! EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU ALL OUT OF HERE.
EDDIE.
EDDIE!
LET GO!
SORRY, BECK. WE WERE JUST SO PLEASED TO SEE YOU THAT WE FORGOT OURSELVES.
YES, AND YOU FORGOT THE STALKERS.
THEY'RE STILL HERE, EDDIE. THEY'RE JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO MAKE A MOVE.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET US OUT.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE A CHOICE.

EVERYONE KEEP MOVING BACK INTO THE TUNNEL.
WE'LL STAY RIGHT HERE UNTIL YOU ARE SAFE.
I'VE GOT YOU TWO COVERED.
WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST KEEP MOVING?
NO! THEY'RE HERE. WE CAN FEEL THEM.
I'M SURE THEY ARE. BUT THE QUESTION IS WHERE?
WE DON'T LIKE THIS. MY OTHER THINKS MAYBE THIS IS A TRAP.
YEAH. LET'S START A STRATEGIC RETREAT.
WE CAN ALWAYS TEAR OFF THEIR HEADS AFTER THE HOSTAGES ARE TOTALLY SAFE.
YES. LET'S JUST FOLLOW THE--
THWOOM


YOU MAY NOT LEAVE.
THE HUNT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
HIDING IN THE WALLS, HUH? WELL...
...THE HUNT IS GOING TO BE OVER IN A MINUTE--
--RIGHT AFTER WE FEED YOU YOUR SPINE!
SKRAAK
THESE LIFE FORMS ARE OFFERING MUCH LESS OF A CHALLENGE THAN I HAD HOPED.


I APPEAR TO HAVE OVERESTIMATED THEIR ABILITIES.
WHY NOT OVERESTIMATE SOME OF MY HELLFIRE?!
INTERESTING.
OUR COLLECTIVE HAS NO RECORD OF THIS ENERGY FORM KNOWN AS HELLFIRE.
BUT WE ADJUST...
...AND ADAPT!
ARRRGH!
PINNED AGAINST THE WALL...PAIN... UNBEARABLE--! HOW?
OBVIOUSLY THE TECHNOLOGY OF MY RACE IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWERS.
THIS IS DISAPPOINTING.
I HAD HOPED FOR MORE OF A CHALLENGE.

WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHALLENGE!
RIGHT AFTER I DEAL WITH THIS!
KRAK
THIS ORGANISM'S LOWER APPENDAGE IS IN DISREPAIR.
I AM ATTEMPTING TO TRIGGER REPAIR MODALITY.
ENOUGH! THESE SPIKES OF YOURS ARE GETTING ON MY NERVES.


WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THEM BACK?!
FRZAT
TIME TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY FLESH AND BLOOD LEFT UNDER ALL THAT HARDWARE!
LET'S PEEL THEM OPEN.
NO... HELP... ME--! IT... THEY... ARE KILLING US! WE... CAN'T CONTROL THEM! WE ARE DYING--
FWOOM
YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH, RAIDEN. THIS SKIRMISH IS OVER. MY POWER LANCE HAS SEEN TO THAT.
THEY HAVE PROVEN THEIR WORTH TO BE OUR PREY.

BEFORE YOU ATTACK AGAIN... PLEASE OBSERVE.
ONE MORE MOVE AND THE COLLARS FASTENED AROUND THE TWO CARBON BASED ORGANISMS WILL CAUSE THEIR HEADS TO CEASE TO EXIST.
WE WILL BEGIN THE HUNT IN EARNEST NOW.
THEN LET'S DO IT! LET'S THROW DOWN AND HAVE AT IT!
NO. THE KILL HOLDS NO INTEREST FOR US. IT IS THE HUNT. YOU BOTH MUST RUN FROM US. TRY TO EVADE OUR DETECTION.
NO.
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
THE REST OF THE HOSTAGES SHALL BE RELEASED. THESE TWO APPEAR TO HOLD SOME IMPORTANCE TO YOU.
THEY WILL REMAIN WITH US. DO NOT PARTAKE IN OUR GAME, AND THEY DIE.
NOOOO!
WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?

HERE. I CREATE A RIFT IN THE SPACE TIME FABRIC.
STEP THROUGH. YOU WILL BE TELEPORTED TO A RANDOM LOCATION ON YOUR PLANET.
THEN WE WILL BEGIN.
NO! WE WON'T ABANDON THEM AGAIN!
WE WON'T ABANDON ANYONE AGAIN!
I'M WITH HIM. WE'RE NOT LEAVING ANYONE WITH YOU SO THAT YOU CAN PURSUE YOUR GAMES!
ONCE AGAIN...
...YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
FRZZATT
THE HUNT IS ON.
PREPARE FOR STALKING MODE.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

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SOMEWHERE IN A SOUTH AMERICAN RAIN FOREST...
...VENOM RUNS!
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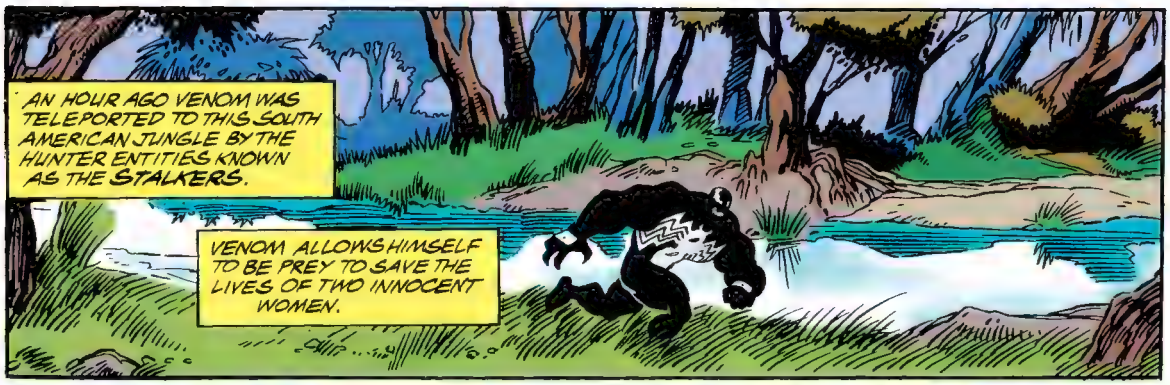
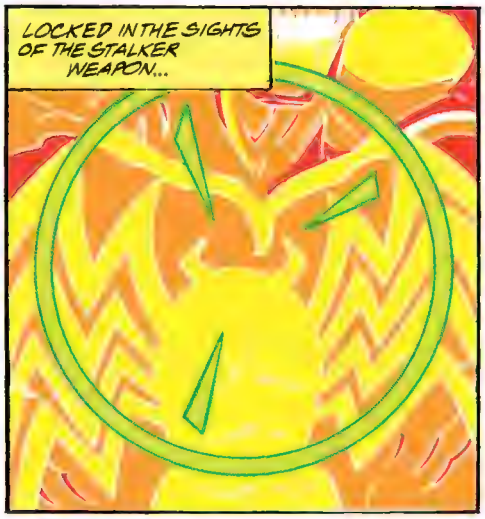
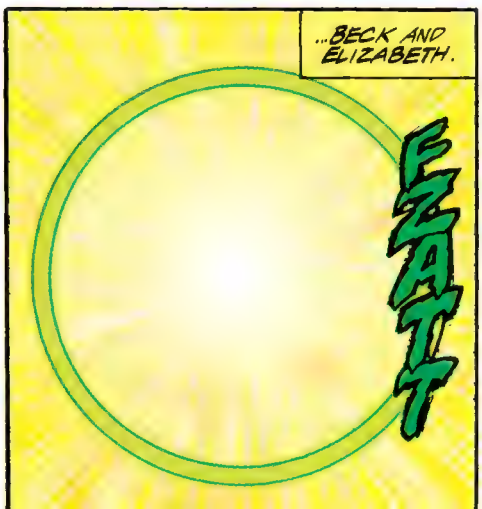

AN HOUR AGO VENOM WAS TELEPORTED TO THIS SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLE BY THE HUNTER ENTITIES KNOWN AS THE STALKERS.
VENOM ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE PREY TO SAVE THE LIVES OF TWO INNOCENT WOMEN.

APPROACHING THE DEAD END OF A WATERFALL, HE CAN FEEL THE STALKERS CLOSING IN FOR THE KILL.
EVERY INSTINCT OF VENOM'S, AND THOSE OF HIS SYMBIOTIC OTHER, SCREAM OUT FOR HIM TO TURN AND FIGHT.

BUT HE CANNOT... WILL NOT... RISK INNOCENT LIVES.

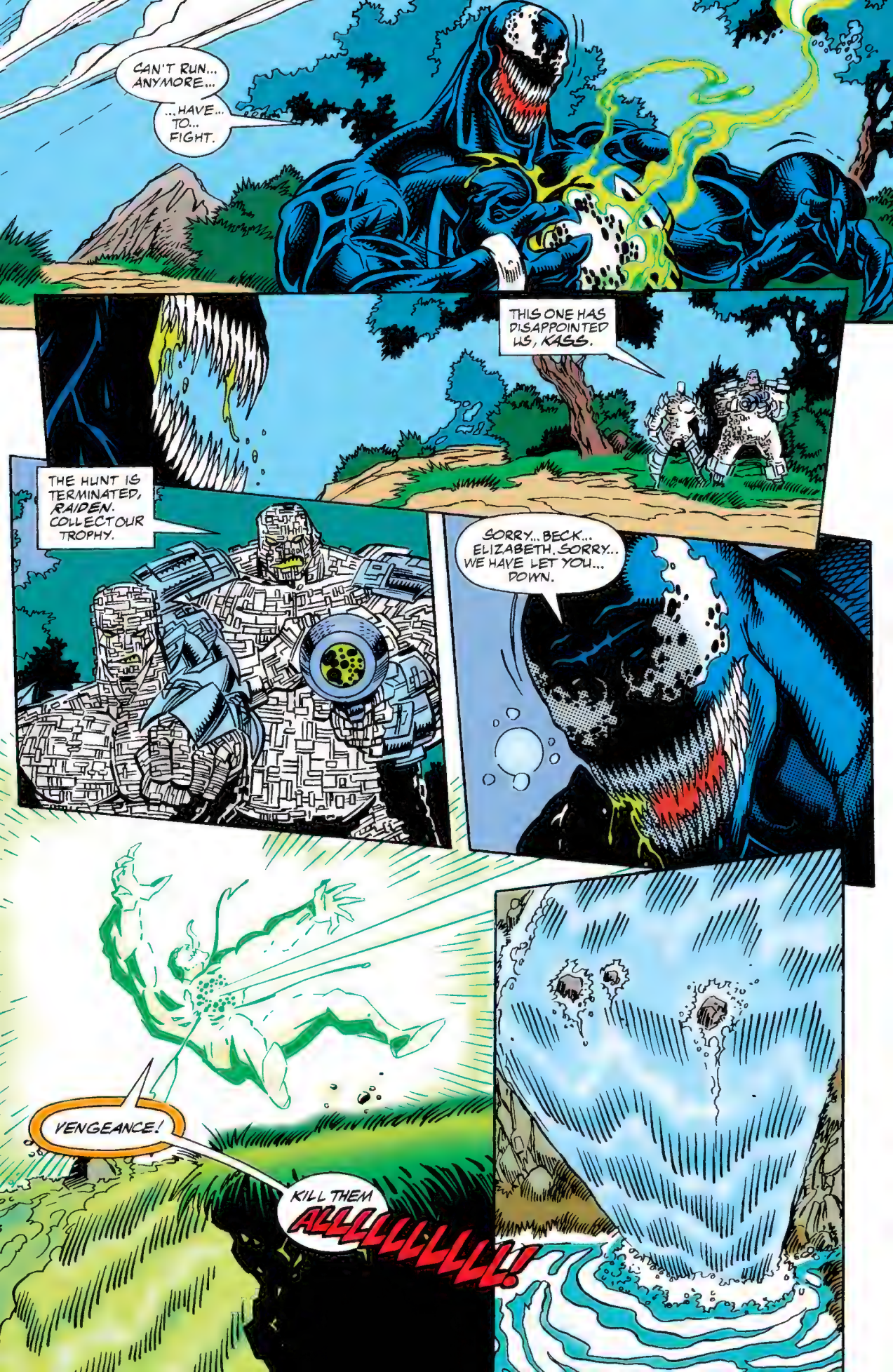

LOCKED IN THE SIGHTS OF THE STALKER WEAPON...


...BECK AND ELIZABETH.
FZATT

SO HE RUNS.

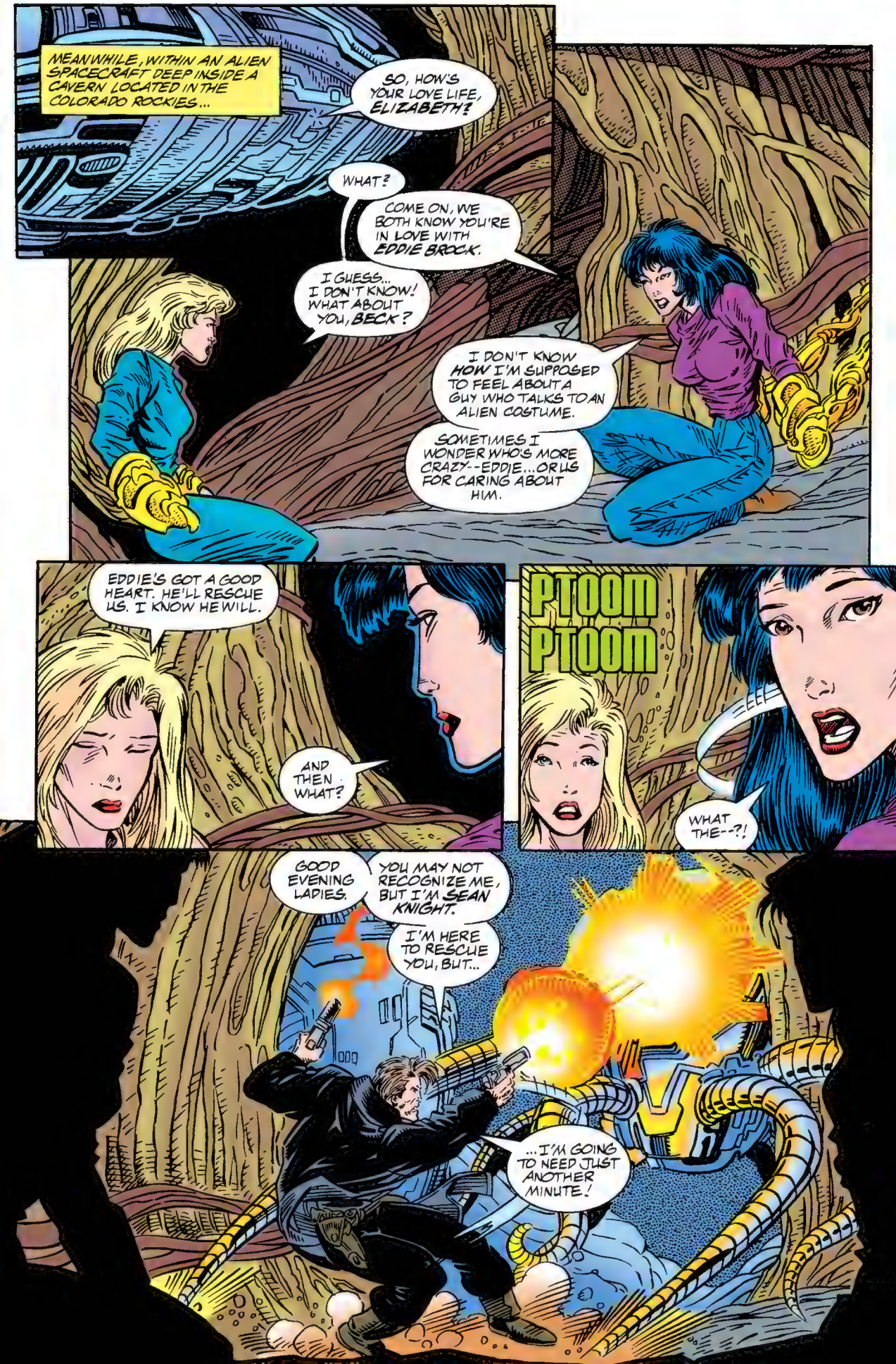
...VENOM IS DETERMINED TO LIVE... TO SURVIVE THIS HUNT... NOT FOR HIMSELF, BUT FOR...

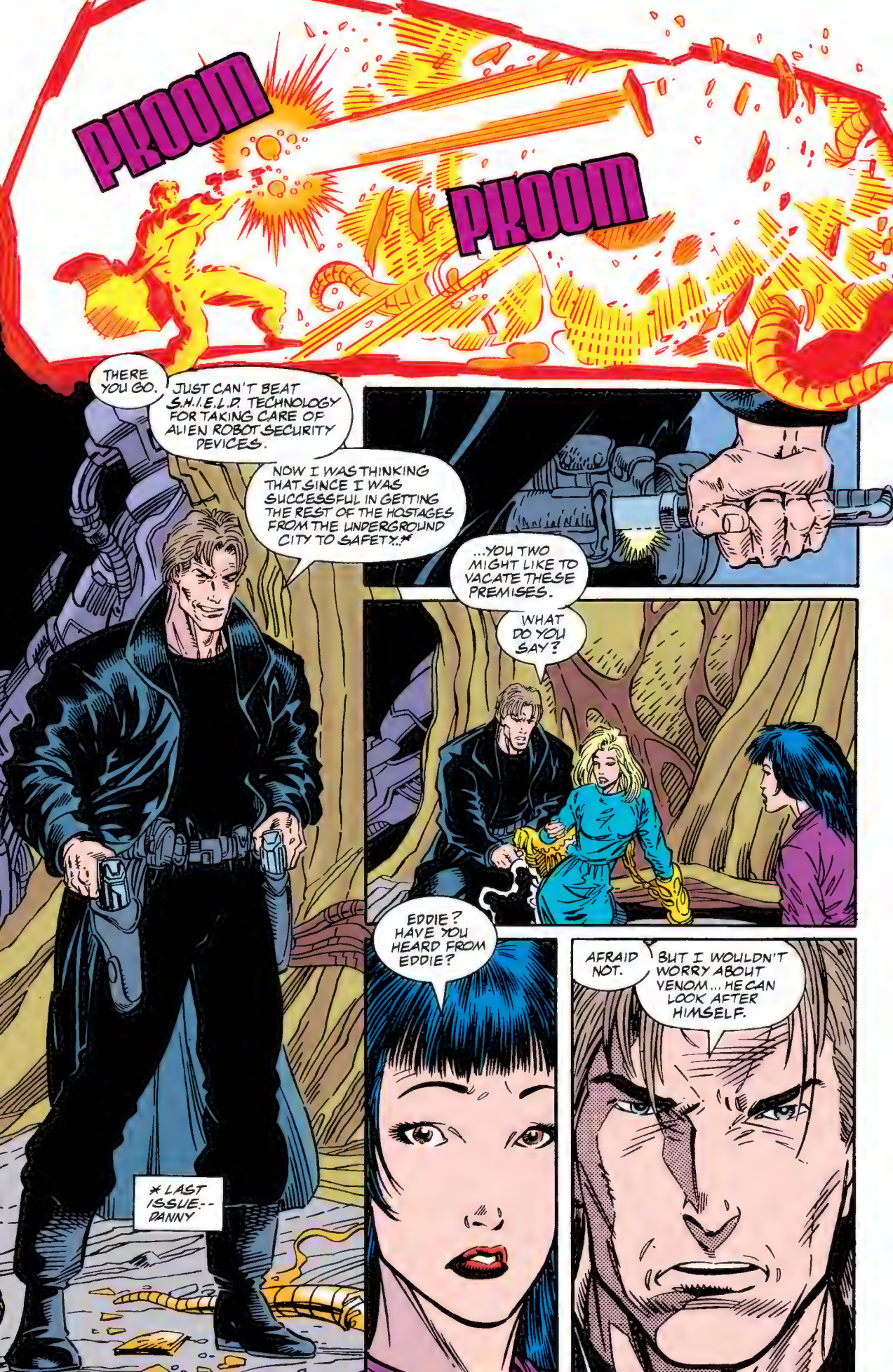
YEARGH!

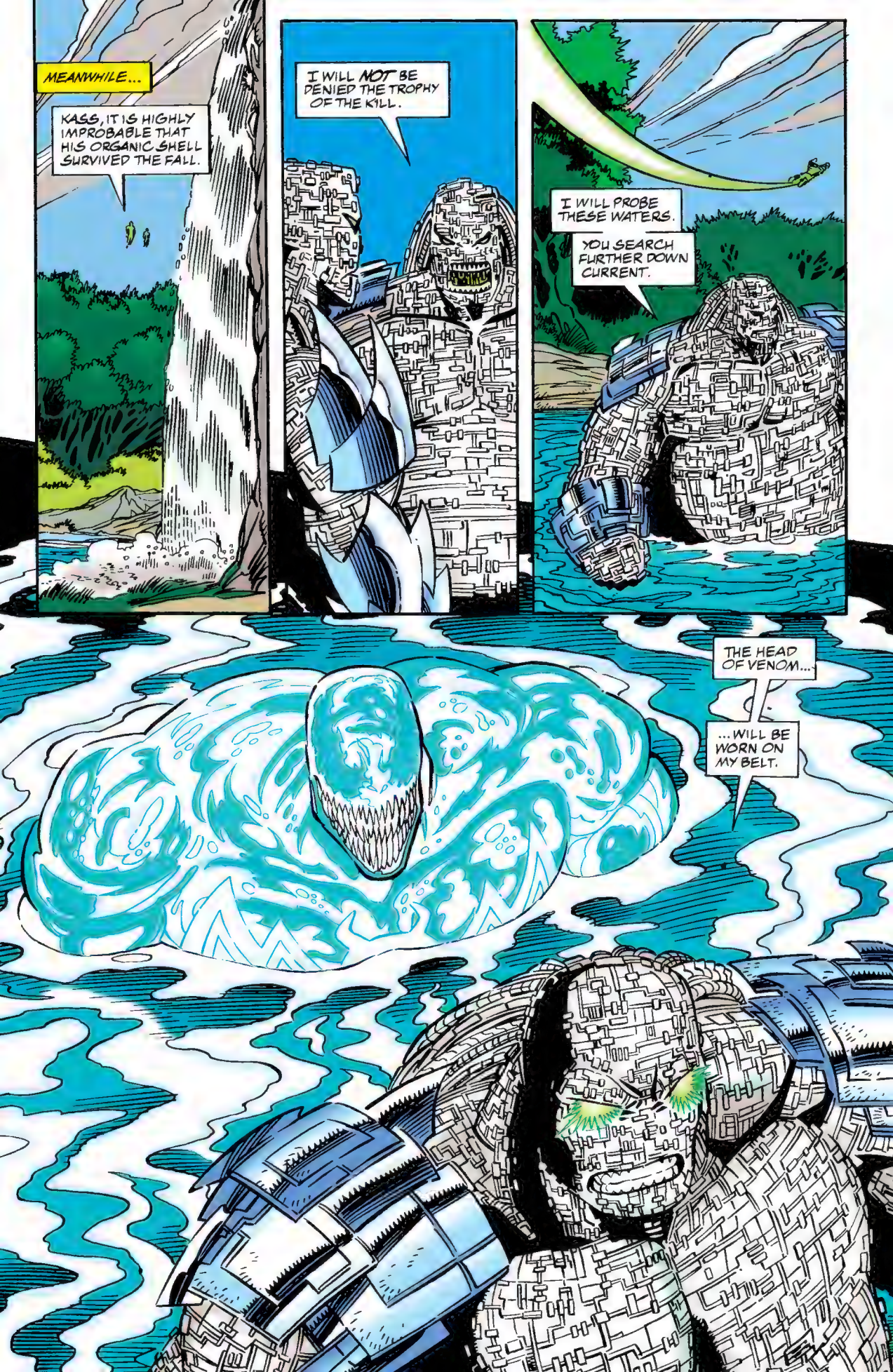

CAN'T RUN... ANYMORE...
...HAVE... TO... FIGHT.
THIS ONE HAS DISAPPOINTED US, KASS.
THE HUNT IS TERMINATED, RAIDEN. COLLECT OUR TROPHY.
SORRY... BECK... ELIZABETH. SORRY... WE HAVE LET YOU... DOWN.
VENGEANCE!
KILL THEM ALLLLLLLLL!

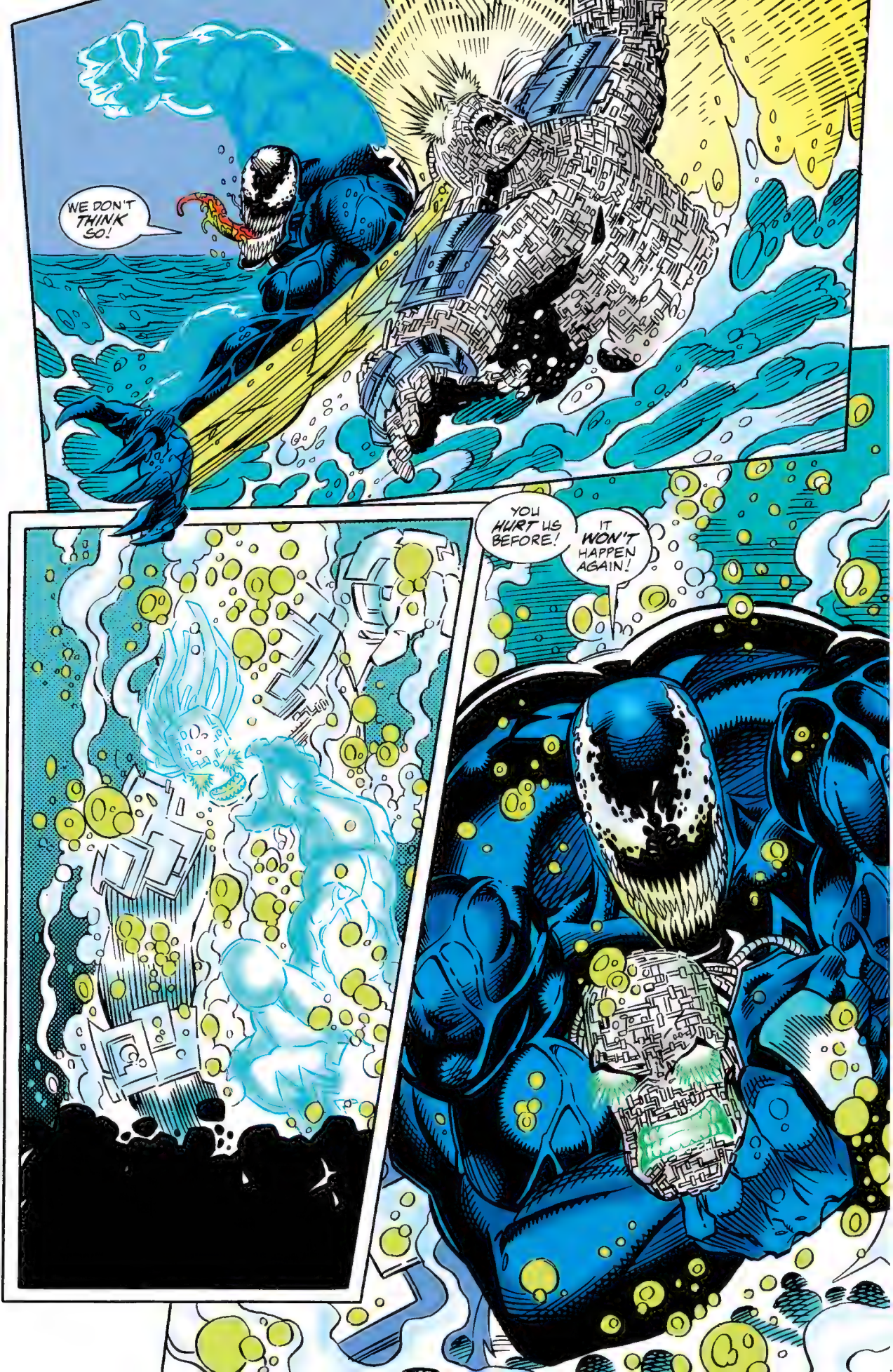
ELSEWHERE...
THE MOLECULAR SPORE OF THE ONE KNOWN AS VENGEANCE ENDS HERE, TRENT.
SCANNING IN INFRARED MODE, BRIGGS.
VARIOUS LOWER ORGANIC LIFE FORMS LOCATED.
THERE.
HUMANOID ORGANISM.
FRAKOOM
HEY! COME ON...
...GIVE ME A BREAK!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

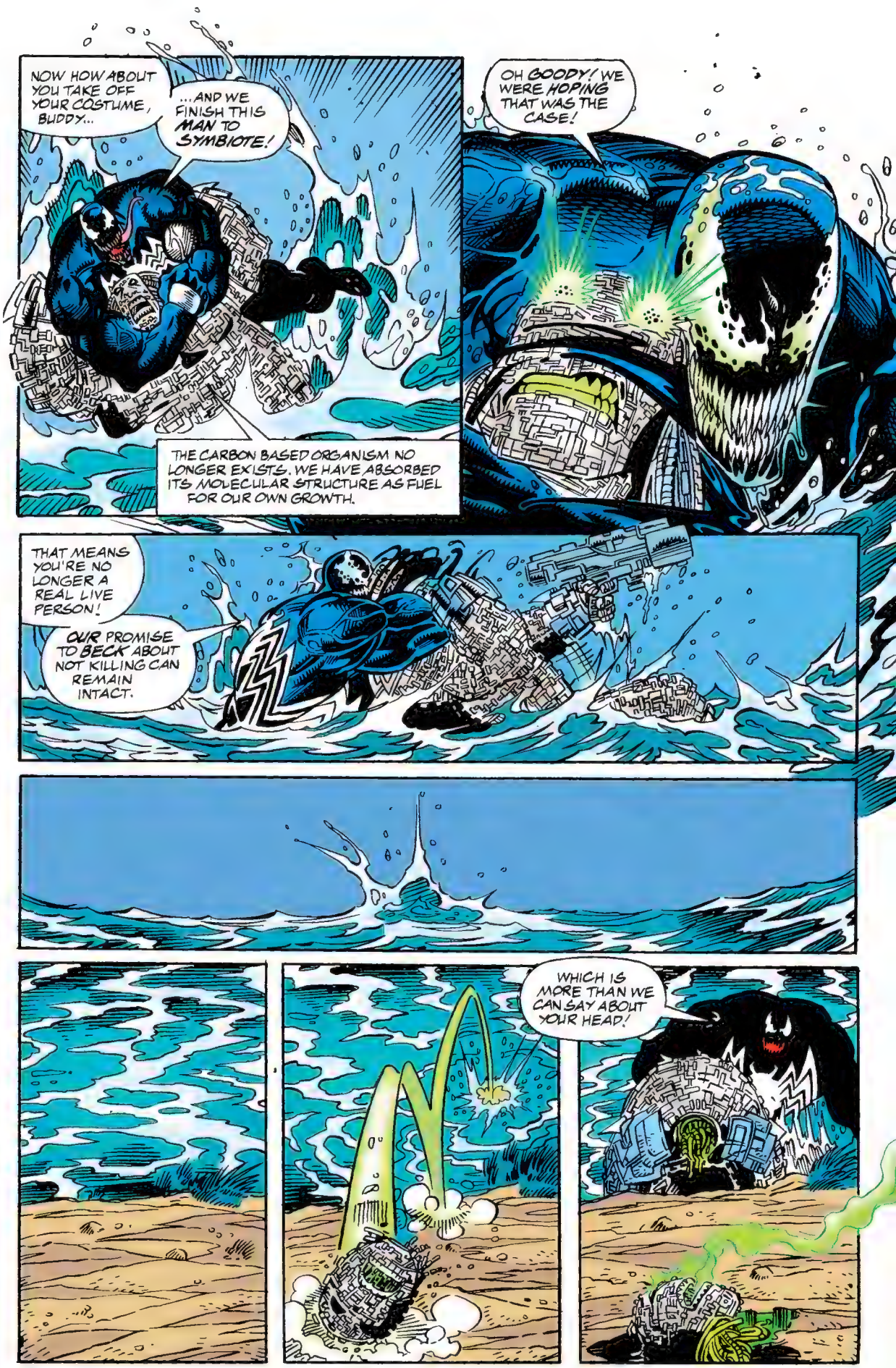
THIS LIFE FORM IS NOT THAT WHICH WE SEEK.
LET US CONTINUE THE HUNT.
WHEW! THAT WAS RISKY!
BUT IT PAID OFF.
THEY CAME HUNTING VENGEANCE, BUT FOUND ONLY MICHAEL BADILINO INSTEAD.
CONFUSED THEM.
GOOD.
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A GOOD IDEA FOR VENOM AND ME TO SPLIT UP ONCE WE GOT HERE.
NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO HUNTING THE STALKERS. ONLY I'D BEST DO IT AS...
VENGEANCE!

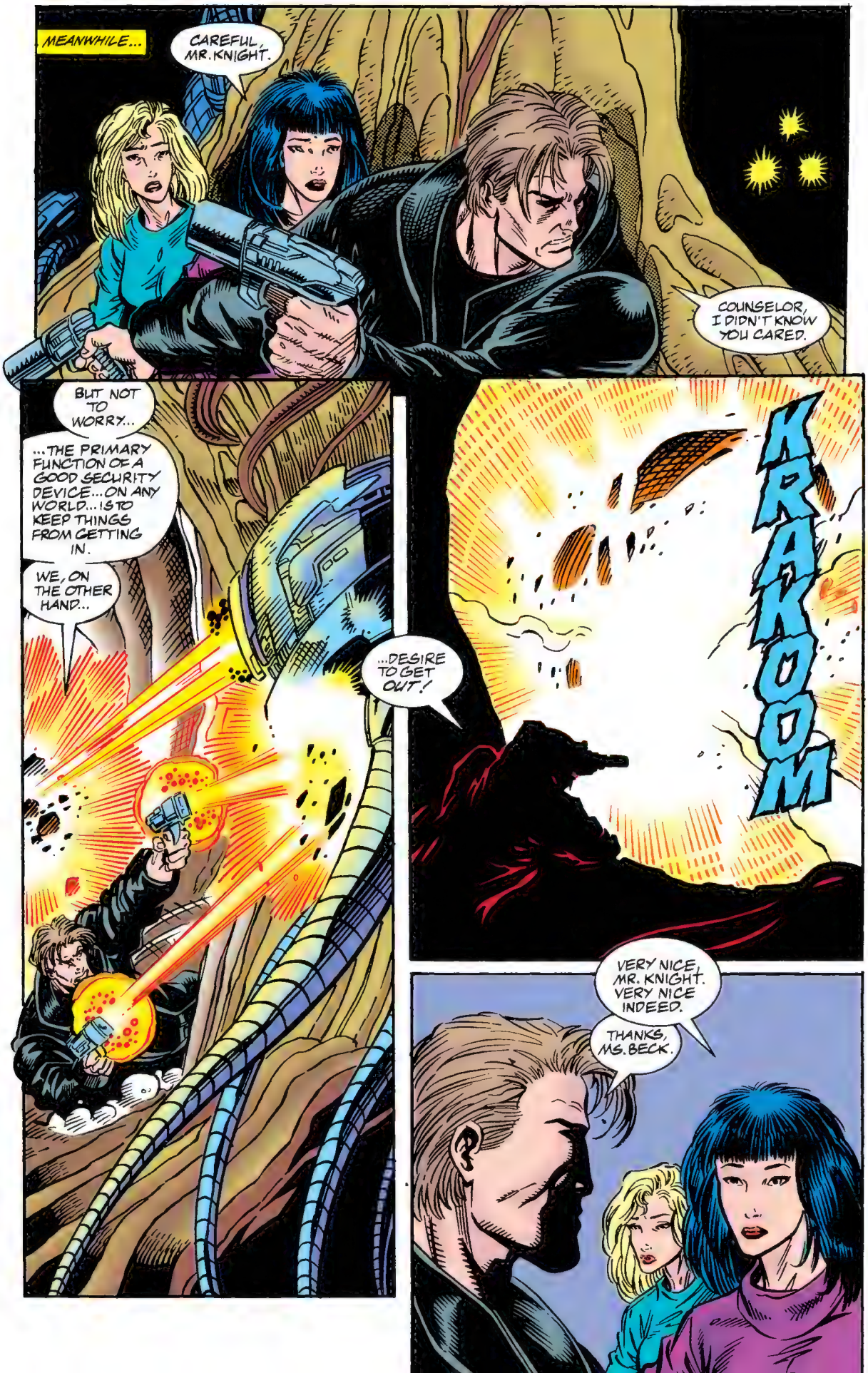

MEANWHILE, WITHIN AN ALIEN SPACECRAFT DEEP INSIDE A CAVERN LOCATED IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES...
SO, HOW'S YOUR LOVE LIFE, ELIZABETH?
WHAT?
COME ON, WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH EDDIE BROCK.
I GUESS... I DON'T KNOW! WHAT ABOUT YOU, BECK?
I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO FEEL ABOUT A GUY WHO TALKS TO AN ALIEN COSTUME.
SOMETIMES I WONDER WHO'S MORE CRAZY--EDDIE...OR US FOR CARING ABOUT HIM.
EDDIE'S GOT A GOOD HEART. HE'LL RESCUE US. I KNOW HE WILL.
AND THEN WHAT?
PTOOM PTOOM
WHAT THE--?!
GOOD EVENING LADIES.
YOU MAY NOT RECOGNIZE ME, BUT I'M SEAN KNIGHT.
I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU, BUT...
...I'M GOING TO NEED JUST ANOTHER MINUTE!

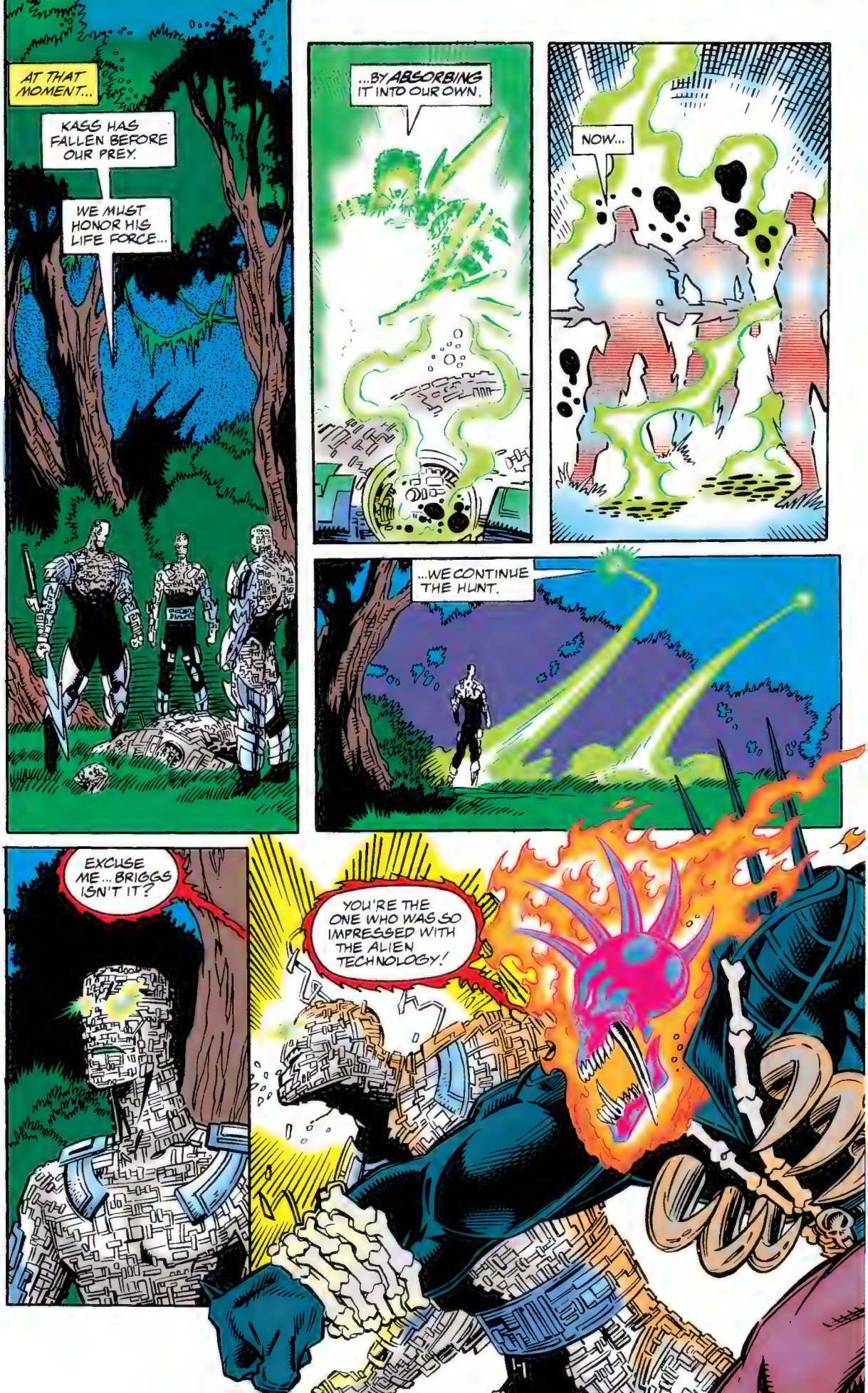

PKOOM
PKOOM
THERE YOU GO.
JUST CAN'T BEAT S.H.I.E.L.D. TECHNOLOGY FOR TAKING CARE OF ALIEN ROBOT SECURITY DEVICES.
NOW I WAS THINKING THAT SINCE I WAS SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE REST OF THE HOSTAGES FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY TO SAFETY...*
...YOU TWO MIGHT LIKE TO VACATE THESE PREMISES.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
* LAST ISSUE:-- DANNY
EDDIE? HAVE YOU HEARD FROM EDDIE?
AFRAID NOT.
BUT I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT VENOM... HE CAN LOOK AFTER HIMSELF.


MEANWHILE...
KASS, IT IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT HIS ORGANIC SHELL SURVIVED THE FALL.
I WILL NOT BE DENIED THE TROPHY OF THE KILL.
I WILL PROBE THESE WATERS.
YOU SEARCH FURTHER DOWN CURRENT.
THE HEAD OF VENOM...
...WILL BE WORN ON MY BELT.


WE DON'T THINK SO!
YOU HURT US BEFORE!
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!


NOW HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE OFF YOUR COSTUME, BUDDY...
...AND WE FINISH THIS MAN TO SYMBIOTE!
OH GOODY! WE WERE HOPING THAT WAS THE CASE!
THE CARBON BASED ORGANISM NO LONGER EXISTS. WE HAVE ABSORBED ITS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE AS FUEL FOR OUR OWN GROWTH.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE NO LONGER A REAL LIVE PERSON!
OUR PROMISE TO BECK ABOUT NOT KILLING CAN REMAIN INTACT.
WHICH IS MORE THAN WE CAN SAY ABOUT YOUR HEAD!

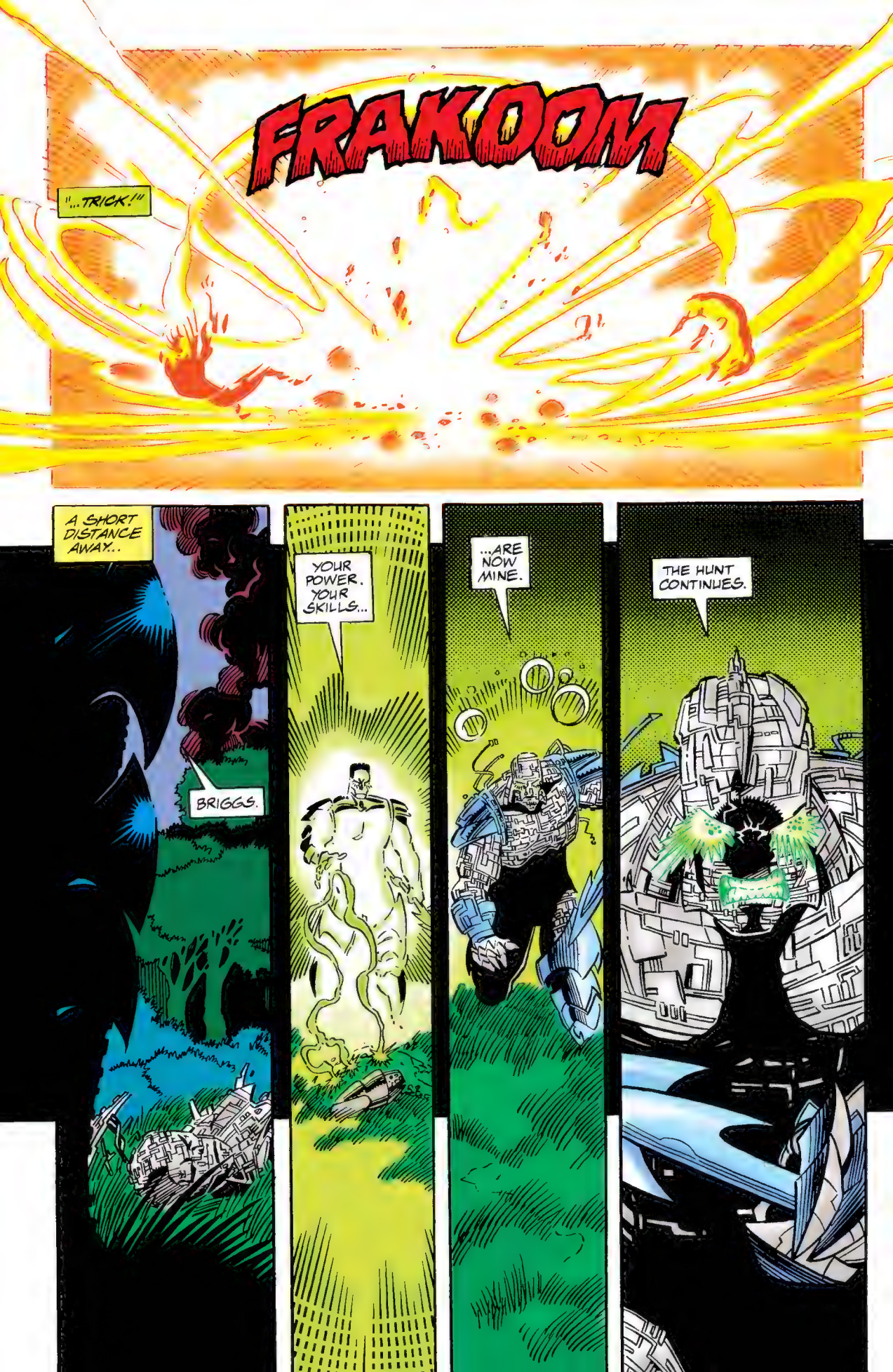

MEANWHILE...
CAREFUL, MR. KNIGHT.
COUNSELOR, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED.
BUT NOT TO WORRY...
...THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF A GOOD SECURITY DEVICE...ON ANY WORLD...IS TO KEEP THINGS FROM GETTING IN.
WE, ON THE OTHER HAND...
...DESIRE TO GET OUT!
KRAKOOM
VERY NICE, MR. KNIGHT. VERY NICE INDEED.
THANKS, MS. BECK.

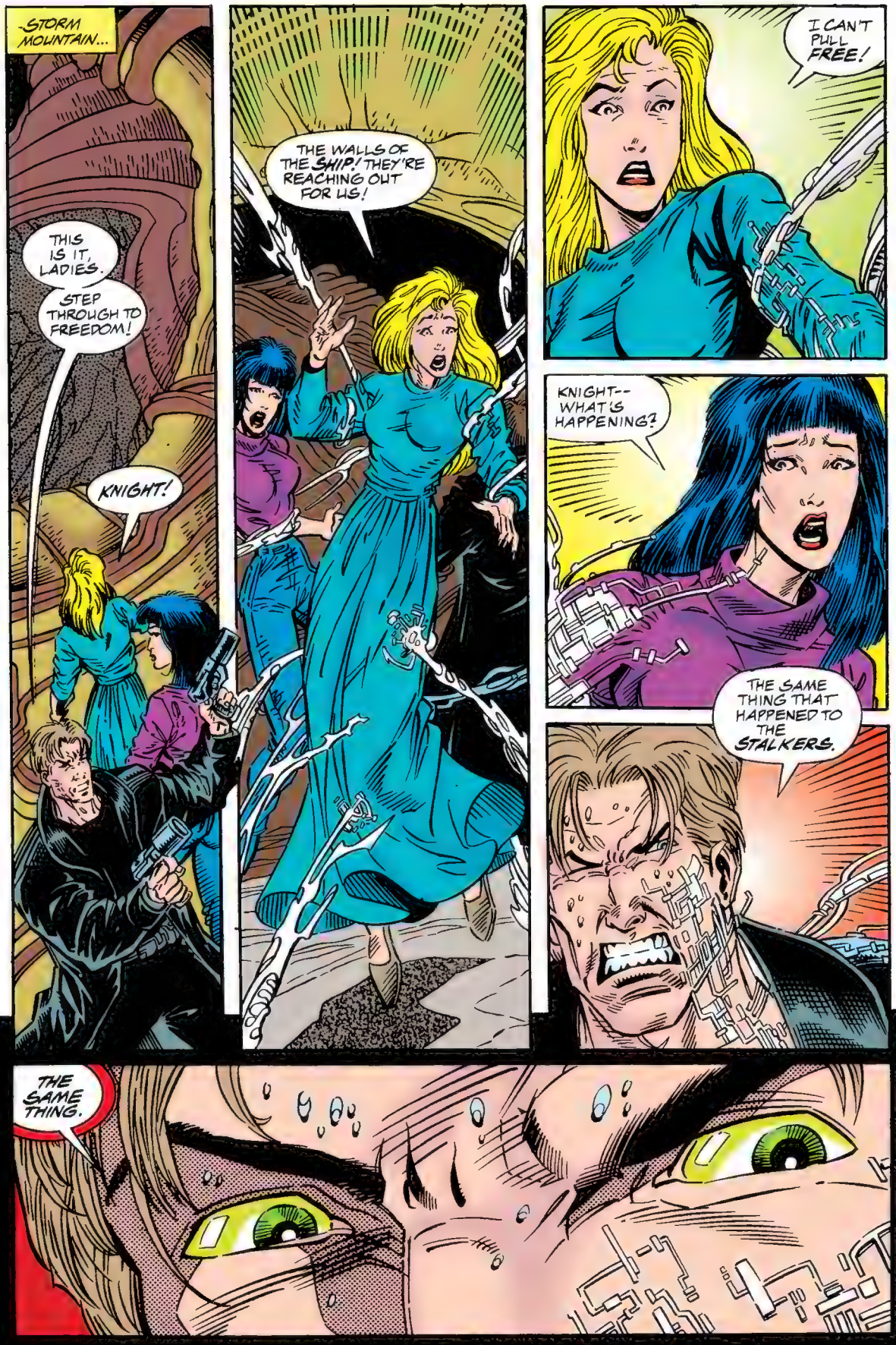

AT THAT MOMENT...
KASS HAS FALLEN BEFORE OUR PREY.
WE MUST HONOR HIS LIFE FORCE...
...BY ABSORBING IT INTO OUR OWN.
NOW...
...WE CONTINUE THE HUNT.
EXCUSE ME... BRIGGS ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS SO IMPRESSED WITH THE ALIEN TECHNOLOGY!

WELL, I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU!
MY HELLFIRE MAY NOT BE ALIEN...
...BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND IT IMPRESSIVE!
FWOOSH
WE'RE IMPRESSED, BADILINO.
GEE, THANKS.
THERE ARE STILL TWO MORE OF THE STALKERS LEFT.
FINE. LET'S FIND THEM AND KILL THEM.
WE'RE LACKING A MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.
THIS BEING HUNTED THING IS DRIVING US NUTS! WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO BECK AND ELIZABETH.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOTORCYCLE? I THOUGHT YOU HAD SOME SORT OF MIND LINK WITH IT LIKE I HAVE WITH MY OTHER?
I DO. BUT AS FAST AS IT IS...

...IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME FOR IT TO GET HERE. MEANWHILE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO IMPROVISE. FOR INSTANCE...THAT AIRPLANE.
SURROUNDED BY DRUG SMUGGLERS!
WE HATE PEOPLE WHO SELL THE POISON THAT TAKES THE LIVES OF SO MANY INNOCENT CHILDREN.
I HAVE NO USE FOR THEM EITHER. LET'S--
QUARRY HAS BEEN LOCATED. HUNT IS IN PROGRESS.
HUNT?
THE WORD SLAUGHTER COMES MORE TO MIND!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY HUNT!

INTRUDERS!
KILL THEM!
YOU KNOW, VENGEANCE, NORMALLY WE'RE NOT MUCH OF A TEAM PLAYER...
...DON'T LIKE TO ASK FOR HELP, BUT NOW THAT WE'VE SOFTENED THIS ONE UP... AND HIS CIRCUITRY SEEMS TO BE OVERLOADING...?
NOT A PROBLEM. A BLAST OF HELLFIRE SHOULD DO THE...

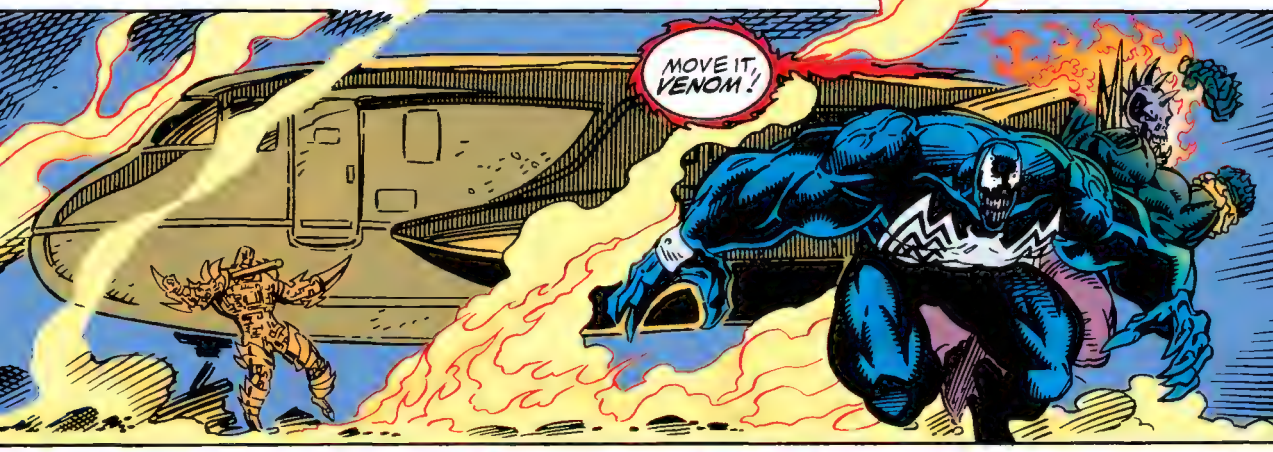

FRAKOOM
"...TRICK!"
A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY..
BRIGGS.
YOUR POWER. YOUR SKILLS...
...ARE NOW MINE.
THE HUNT CONTINUES.


-STORM MOUNTAIN...
THIS IS IT, LADIES.
STEP THROUGH TO FREEDOM!
KNIGHT!
THE WALLS OF THE SHIP! THEY'RE REACHING OUT FOR US!
I CAN'T PULL FREE!
KNIGHT-- WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED TO THE STALKERS.
THE SAME THING.

MEANWHILE...
NO! NO! WE CANNOT TAKE OFF WITH THE RUNWAY ON FIRE!
YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND...
...MY FRIEND HERE ISN'T GIVING YOU A LOT OF CHOICE!
VENGEANCE!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME COMPANY!
AND HE ISN'T LOOKING ANY PRETTIER!

KTASH
YOO-HOO! HUNTING TIME'S OVER, TRENT!
YOU SHOULD'VE STUCK TO HUNTING RASCALLY RABBITS...
...WOULD HAVE BEEN HEALTHIER FOR ALL OF YOU STALKERS!
KRAK
...IS MINE!
MY BRETHREN MAY HAVE FALLEN, BUT NOW...THEIR STRENGTH...
FIRE! BURNING US! MY OTHER... IN PAIN...HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM--
THUNK

THE FLAMES WEAKEN YOU.
THEY WILL BE OUR WEAPON OF CHOICE.
YOUR CHARRED CARCASS WILL BE OUR TROPHY.
FWOOSH
NO TROPHIES TODAY, STALKER!
UNLESS PINNING YOUR CARCASS TO THIS AIRPLANE COUNTS!



FRAK-KOOM

THE LAST OF THE STALKERS HAS FALLEN AND YOUR MOTORCYCLE IS HERE.
TIMING IS EVERYTHING. I SAW IT ARRIVING. DECIDED WE DIDN'T NEED THE PLANE FOR TRANS PORTATION ANY LONGER...
...FIGURED IT MIGHT AS WELL SERVE SOME PURPOSE.
LOOKS LIKE IT DID. TO US.
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE US TO GET BACK TO COLORADO...TO WHERE BECK AND ELIZABETH ARE?
NO MORE THAN A COUPLE OF HOURS.
A SHORT TIME LATER...
REPAIR MODE IN EFFECT.
THE HUNT CONTINUES.
NEXT: THE CONCLUSION!

MARVEL
VENOM
NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE
PART 4 OF 4
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4
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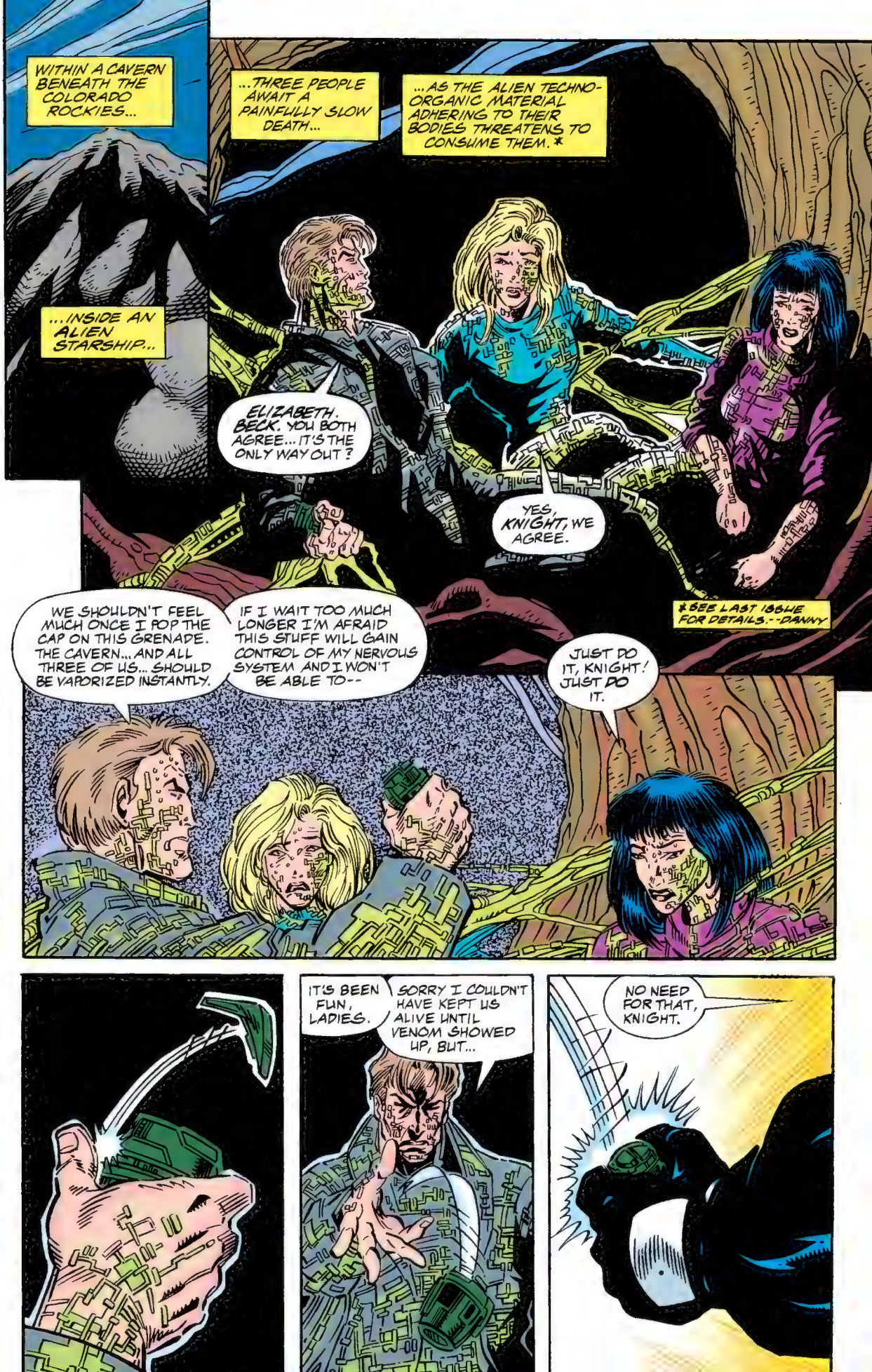
FINALE!


WITHIN A CAVERN BENEATH THE COLORADO ROCKIES...
...INSIDE AN ALIEN STARSHIP...
...THREE PEOPLE AWAIT A PAINFULLY SLOW DEATH...
...AS THE ALIEN TECHNO-ORGANIC MATERIAL ADHERING TO THEIR BODIES THREATENS TO CONSUME THEM. *
ELIZABETH. BECK. YOU BOTH AGREE... IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT?
YES, KNIGHT, WE AGREE.
* SEE LAST ISSUE FOR DETAILS.--DANNY
WE SHOULDN'T FEEL MUCH ONCE I POP THE CAP ON THIS GRENADE. THE CAVERN... AND ALL THREE OF US... SHOULD BE VAPORIZED INSTANTLY.
IF I WAIT TOO MUCH LONGER I'M AFRAID THIS STUFF WILL GAIN CONTROL OF MY NERVOUS SYSTEM AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO--
JUST DO IT, KNIGHT! JUST DO IT.
IT'S BEEN FUN, LADIES.
SORRY I COULDN'T HAVE KEPT US ALIVE UNTIL VENOM SHOWED UP, BUT...
NO NEED FOR THAT, KNIGHT.

STAN LEE PRESENTS : KNIGHTS OF VENGEANCE PART 4

STALKED NO MORE!

THE GOOD GUYS ARE HERE!

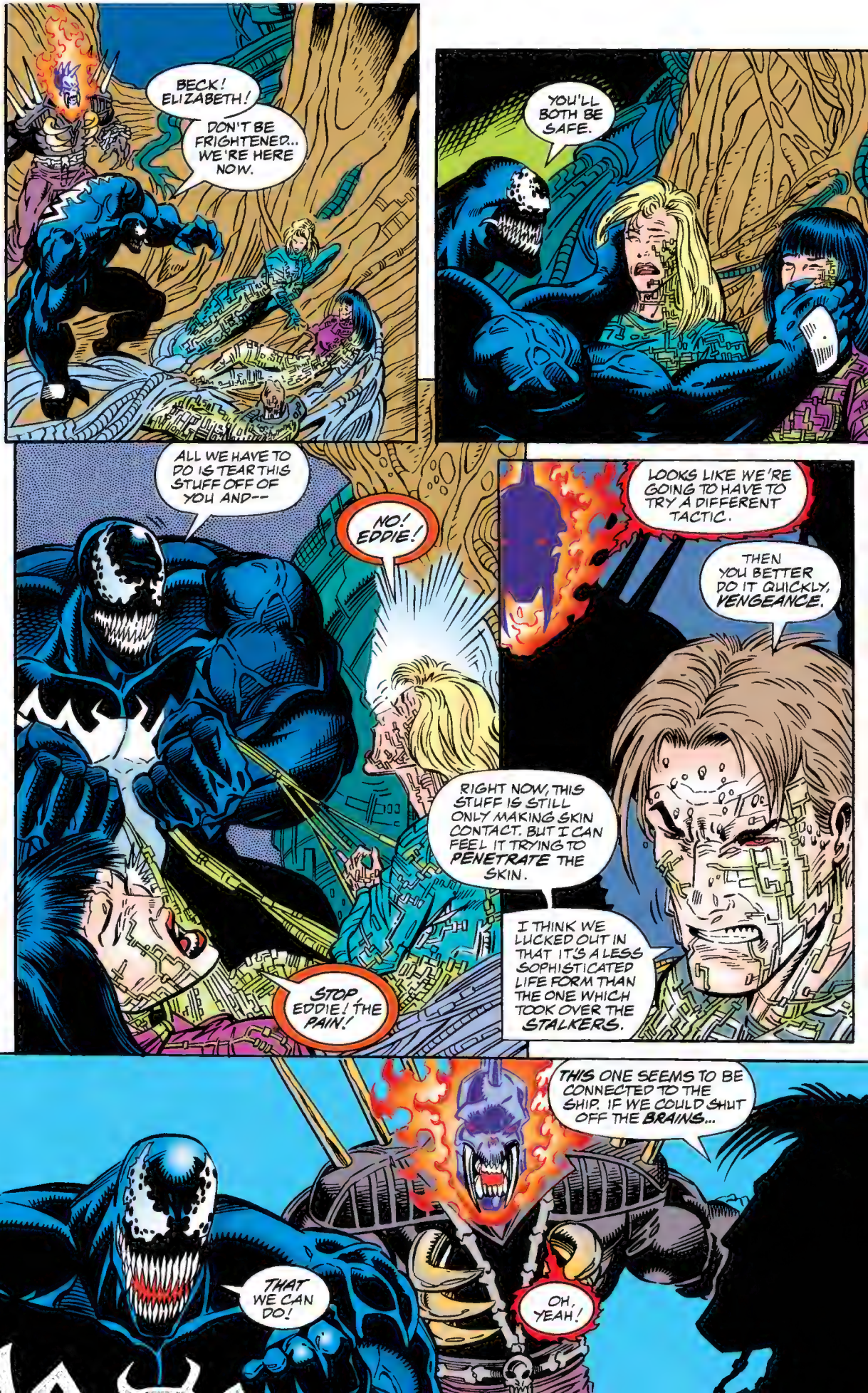
BESIDES... LOUD NOISES HURT OUR EARS!

THOOMP

EDDIE!

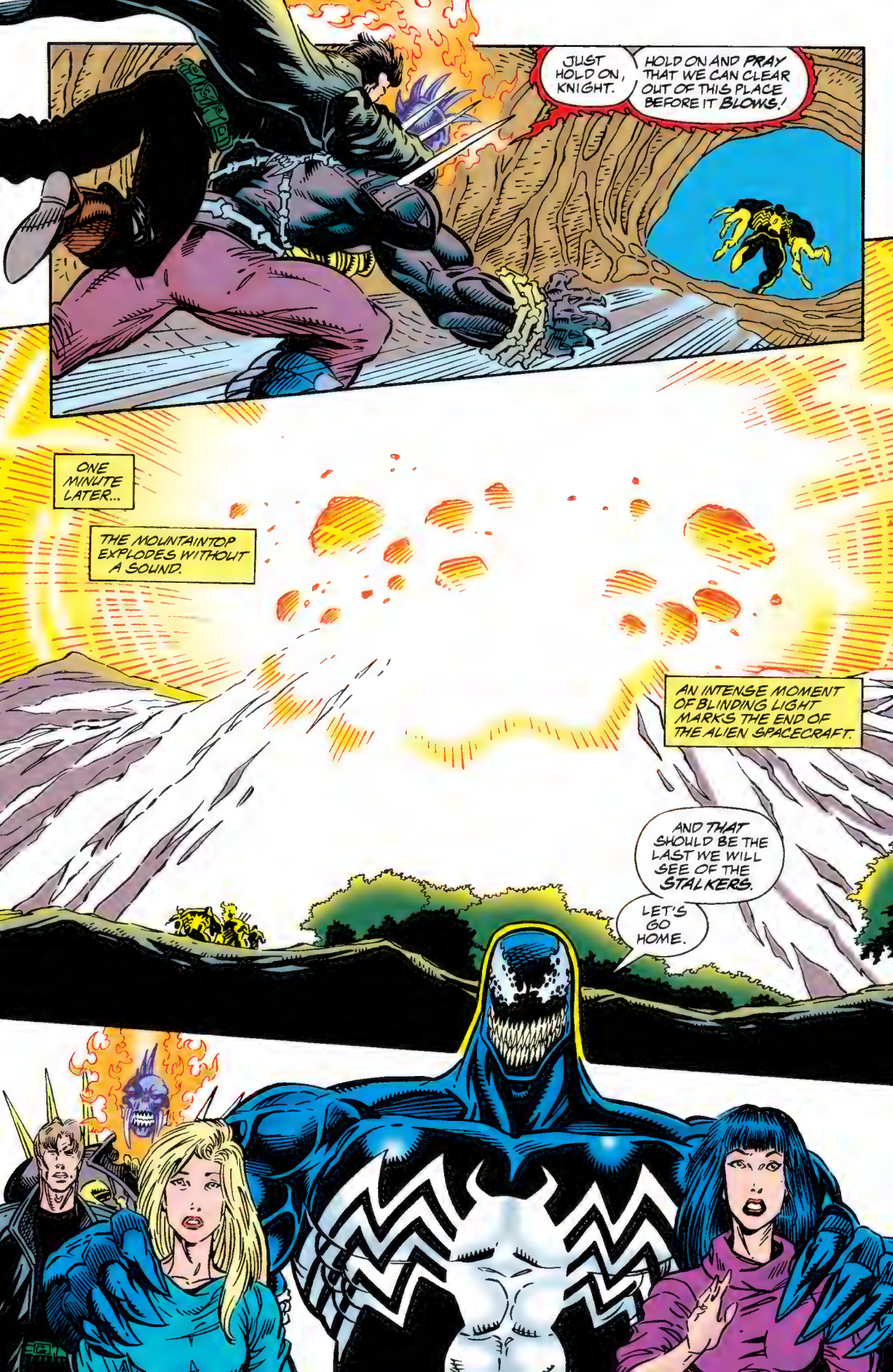
VENOM!

RON LIM & AL MILGROM · HOWARD MACKIE
ARTISTS · WRITER
KEN LOPEZ · LETTERER · TOM SMITH · COLORIST · DANNY FINGEROTH · EDITOR · TOM DEFALCO · EDITOR IN CHIEF

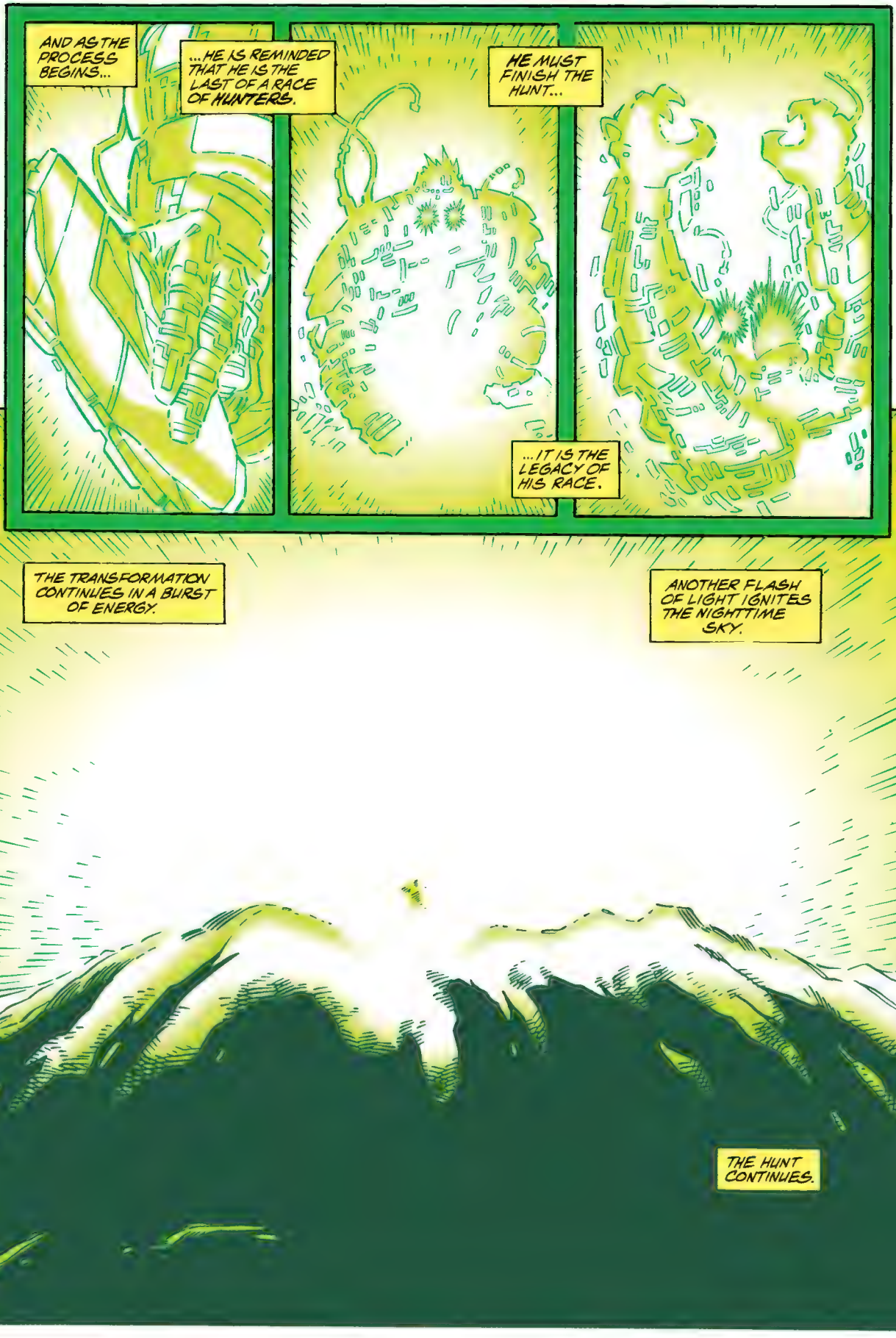

BECK! ELIZABETH!
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED... WE'RE HERE NOW.
YOU'LL BOTH BE SAFE.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TEAR THIS STUFF OFF OF YOU AND--
NO! EDDIE!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRY A DIFFERENT TACTIC.
THEN YOU BETTER DO IT QUICKLY, VENGEANCE.
RIGHT NOW, THIS STUFF IS STILL ONLY MAKING SKIN CONTACT. BUT I CAN FEEL IT TRYING TO PENETRATE THE SKIN.
I THINK WE LUCKED OUT IN THAT IT'S A LESS SOPHISTICATED LIFE FORM THAN THE ONE WHICH TOOK OVER THE STALKERS.
STOP, EDDIE! THE PAIN!
THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE CONNECTED TO THE SHIP. IF WE COULD SHUT OFF THE BRAINS...
THAT WE CAN DO!
OH, YEAH!

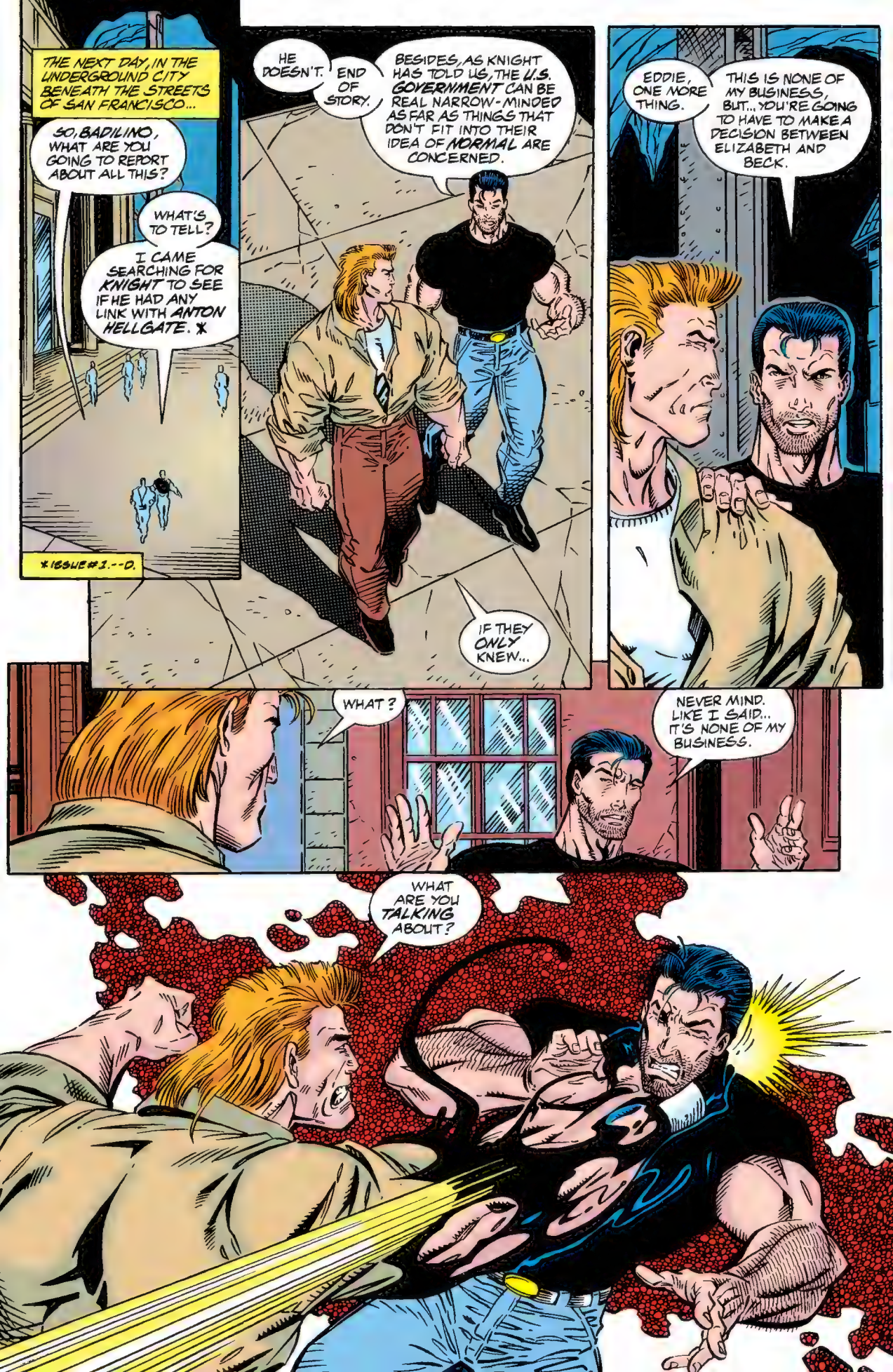
VENOM AND VENGEANCE NEED NO MORE ENCOURAGEMENT TO DO WHAT COMES SO NATURALLY TO THEM.
VENGEANCE POURS FORTH A SERIES OF HELLFIRE BURSTS AND THROWN SPIKES.
VENOM LOSES HIMSELF IN HIS RAGE.
A RAGE THAT NEEDS TO BE RELEASED..
...FOR FEAR THAT IT WILL CONSUME HIM.
THE BEGINNING OF THEIR SUCCESS IS MARKED WITH A SERIES OF SMALL EXPLOSIONS.

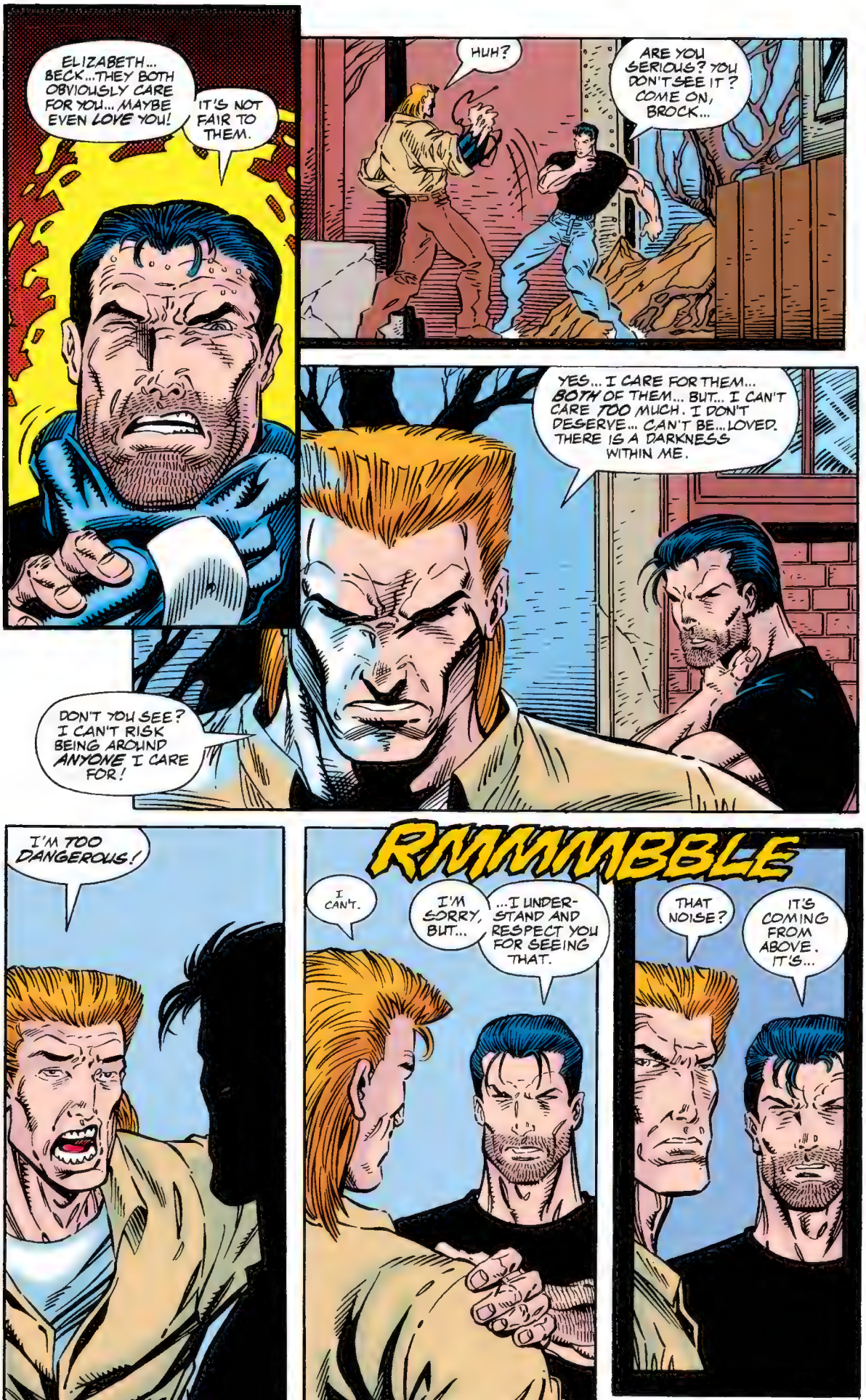
THE EXPLOSIONS INCREASE IN INTENSITY.
FWAKOOM
IF THIS DOESN'T DO IT... I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL!
FWAKOOM
WE DID IT! THEY'RE FREE!
COME, LADIES, THIS PLACE IS ABOUT TO GET DANGEROUS!
FWAKOOM

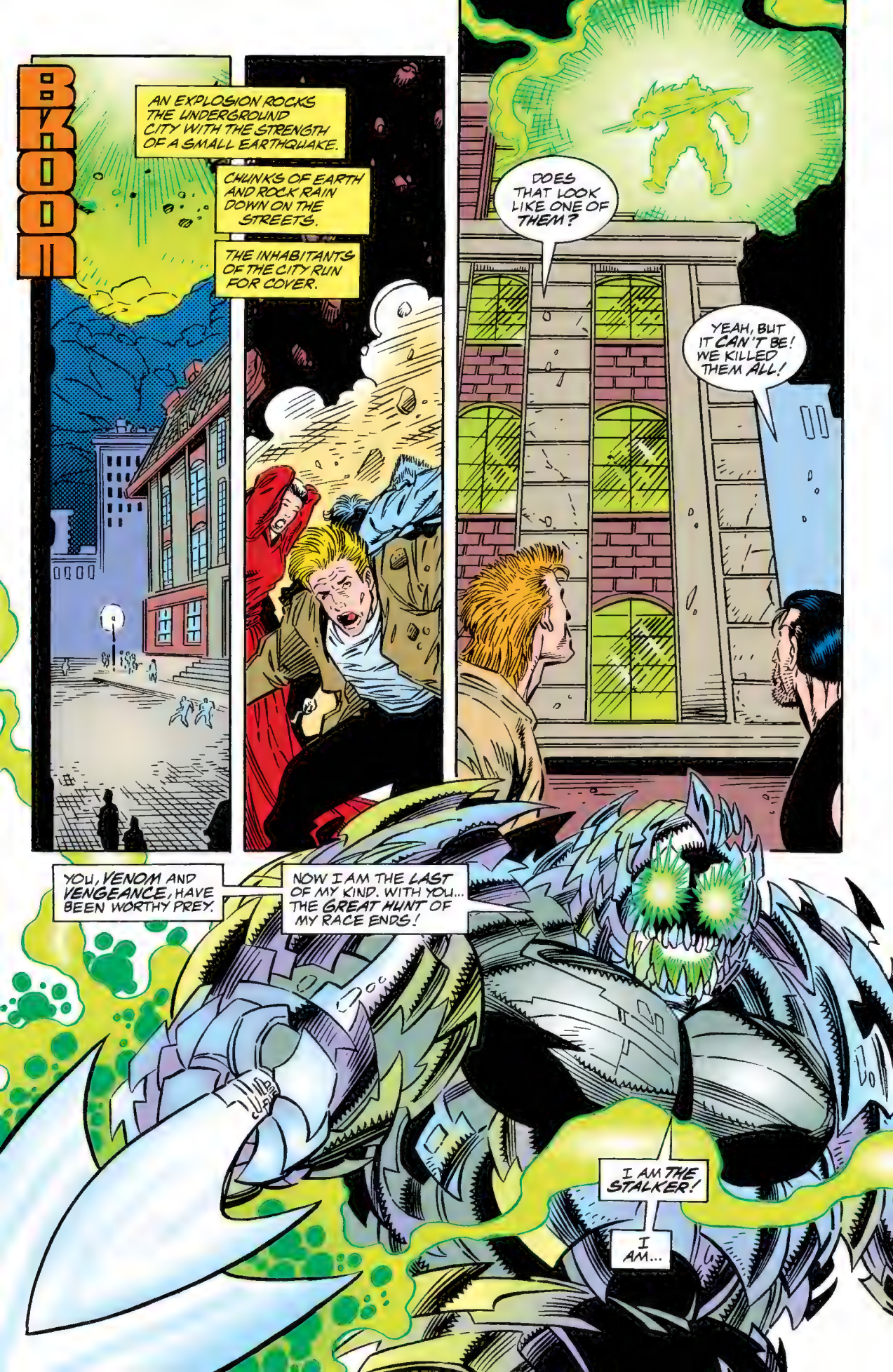

JUST HOLD ON, KNIGHT.
HOLD ON AND PRAY THAT WE CAN CLEAR OUT OF THIS PLACE BEFORE IT BLOWS!
ONE MINUTE LATER...
THE MOUNTAINTOP EXPLODES WITHOUT A SOUND.
AN INTENSE MOMENT OF BLINDING LIGHT MARKS THE END OF THE ALIEN SPACECRAFT.
AND THAT SHOULD BE THE LAST WE WILL SEE OF THE STALKERS.
LET'S GO HOME.

ONE HOUR LATER...
A LONE FIGURE STANDS AMID THE RUINS OF STORM MOUNTAIN.
ONCE HE WAS A MAN, A MERCENARY, CALLED TRENT.
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE BEING TAKEN OVER BY AN ALIEN LIFE FORM.
HIS LAST TRACES OF HUMANITY HAVE BEEN CONSUMED.
NOW THERE IS ONLY TRENT...
...LAST OF THE STALKERS.
HE PAWS THROUGH THE ASH AND DEBRIS TO FIND A FRAGMENT OF THE MOTHER SHIP WHICH GAVE HIM LIFE.
ABSORBING THE REMAINS HE REALIZES...
... HE IS NOW THE LAST OF HIS TECHNO-ORGANIC RACE.
A FIRE IS IGNITED WITHIN HIM...
...THE NEED TO FIND ALL TRACES OF THE SHIP...
...THE NEED TO ABSORB...
... TO GROW.


AND AS THE PROCESS BEGINS...
...HE IS REMINDED THAT HE IS THE LAST OF A RACE OF HUNTERS.
HE MUST FINISH THE HUNT...
...IT IS THE LEGACY OF HIS RACE.
THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES IN A BURST OF ENERGY.
ANOTHER FLASH OF LIGHT IGNITES THE NIGHTTIME SKY.
THE HUNT CONTINUES.


THE NEXT DAY, IN THE UNDERGROUND CITY BENEATH THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO...
SO, BADILINO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO REPORT ABOUT ALL THIS?
WHAT'S TO TELL?
I CAME SEARCHING FOR KNIGHT TO SEE IF HE HAD ANY LINK WITH ANTON HELLGATE. *
*ISSUE #3.--D.
HE DOESN'T.
END OF STORY.
BESIDES, AS KNIGHT HAS TOLD US, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CAN BE REAL NARROW-MINDED AS FAR AS THINGS THAT DON'T FIT INTO THEIR IDEA OF NORMAL ARE CONCERNED.
IF THEY ONLY KNEW...
EDDIE, ONE MORE THING.
THIS IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT... YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION BETWEEN ELIZABETH AND BECK.
WHAT?
NEVER MIND. LIKE I SAID.. IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


ELIZABETH... BECK...THEY BOTH OBVIOUSLY CARE FOR YOU... MAYBE EVEN LOVE YOU!
IT'S NOT FAIR TO THEM.
HUH?
ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU DON'T SEE IT? COME ON, BROCK...
YES... I CARE FOR THEM... BOTH OF THEM... BUT... I CAN'T CARE TOO MUCH. I DON'T DESERVE... CAN'T BE...LOVED. THERE IS A DARKNESS WITHIN ME.
DON'T YOU SEE? I CAN'T RISK BEING AROUND ANYONE I CARE FOR!
I'M TOO DANGEROUS!
RMMMBBLE
I CAN'T.
I'M SORRY, BUT...
...I UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT YOU FOR SEEING THAT.
THAT NOISE?
IT'S COMING FROM ABOVE. IT'S...


BOOM
AN EXPLOSION ROCKS THE UNDERGROUND CITY WITH THE STRENGTH OF A SMALL EARTHQUAKE.
CHUNKS OF EARTH AND ROCK RAIN DOWN ON THE STREETS.
THE INHABITANTS OF THE CITY RUN FOR COVER.
DOES THAT LOOK LIKE ONE OF THEM?
YEAH, BUT IT CAN'T BE! WE KILLED THEM ALL!
YOU, VENOM AND VENGEANCE, HAVE BEEN WORTHY PREY.
NOW I AM THE LAST OF MY KIND. WITH YOU... THE GREAT HUNT OF MY RACE ENDS!
I AM THE STALKER!
I AM...

KRAKAKOOM
...YOUR DEATH!
A CRATER FILLS THE STREET WHERE ONCE STOOD EDDIE BROCK AND MICHAEL BADILINO.
BUT, AS SMOKE BEGINS TO CLEAR, IN THEIR PLACE STAND...
...VENGEANCE AND VENOM.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! LET'S PUT THIS GUY OUT OF OUR MISERY ALREADY!

YOU SURVIVE?
WHICH IS MUCH MORE THAN WE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY FOR YOU IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES!
STOP AND THINK, EDDIE! THINK!
IF WE FIGHT HIM HERE... WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT?
HOW MANY WILL DIE AS YOU PROTECT THEM?
FINE.
WE'LL TAKE THE FIGHT UP TOP!

AND DON'T EVER TRY AND HOLD US BACK AGAIN!
PLIP
OR WE'LL TEAR YOU APART AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH HIM!
I LOVE YOU TOO, VENOM!

FORTUNATELY, IT IS STILL TOO EARLY FOR THE BIKERS AND THE RUNNERS TO FILL THE PARK WHICH SITS ATOP THE UNDERGROUND CITY.
SHRAKTOOM
FORTUNATE INDEED.
HE'S A LOT BIGGER THAN THE LAST TIME WE SAW HIM!
AND A LOT STRONGER!

I AM THE SUM OF ALL WHICH WAS MY RACE.
ALL KNOWLEDGE.
ALL STRENGTH.
ALL SKILL.
I AM ALL!
YOU'RE ALSO ALL MOUTH!

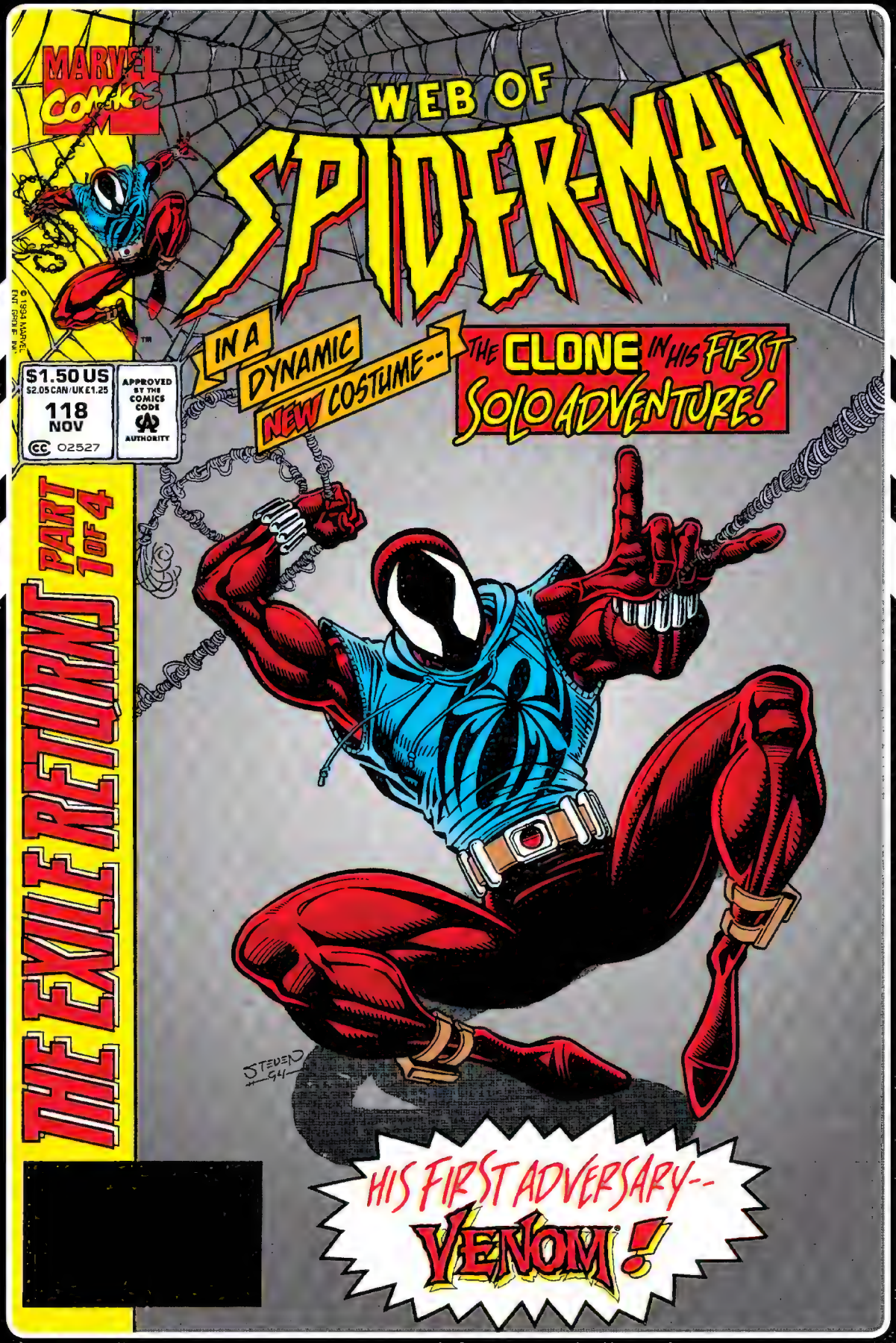
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!
SCHWIPP
AND WHILE HE'S BLINDED...
FWOK
FWOK
EDDIE, I DON'T KNOW IF WE HAVE IT IN US TO FINISH HIM OFF!
WE'VE HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT AND HE'S STILL COMING AT US!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO TRY NEXT!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING...
...OR HE WILL NEVER STOP HUNTING US.
NEVER STOP ENDANGERING THE ONES WE LOVE.
YEAAAARR!
THIS CREATURE HAS GOT TO DIE!

NOW, IF WE CAN JUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO DISCHARGE THIS ENERGY LANCE OF HIS!
IF YOU DESTROY ME, YOU DESTROY AN ENTIRE RACE OF SENTIENT BEINGS.
YOU ARE KILLERS... PARASITES FEEDING OFF HUMAN LIFE IN ALL WAYS.
AND WHAT OF YOU AND YOUR OTHER?
IS IT NOT THE SAME?
NO! OUR RELATIONSHIP IS A SYMBIOSIS. WE HELP EACH OTHER.
SO YOU THINK. BUT ARE YOU CERTAIN?
YES!
WE HAVE SEEN OTHERS LIKE YOU THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY... HAVE HUNTED THEM. THERE ARE OTHERS. WE CAN HELP YOU FIND THEM. JOIN OUR HUNT... OUR RACES ARE SIMILAR... WE...

DON'T... LISTEN... KILL... HIM... US... PLEASE...
THE HUMAN?
PLEASE... DO IT! PRESS THE BUTTON--!
CLIK

THEY'RE DEAD.
HOPEFULLY FOR REAL THIS TIME.
HE SAID THERE ARE OTHERS. HE SAID...
...THERE ARE OTHERS...
...LIKE US.
WAS HE LYING TO SAVE HIS LIFE... HIS RACE?
WE HAVE TO KNOW.
NEXT: EDDIE AND THE SYMBIOTE: SEPARATED! AND AT THE MERCY OF FIVE OTHER SYMBIOTES!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THE CLONE IN HIS FIRST SOLO ADVENTURE!
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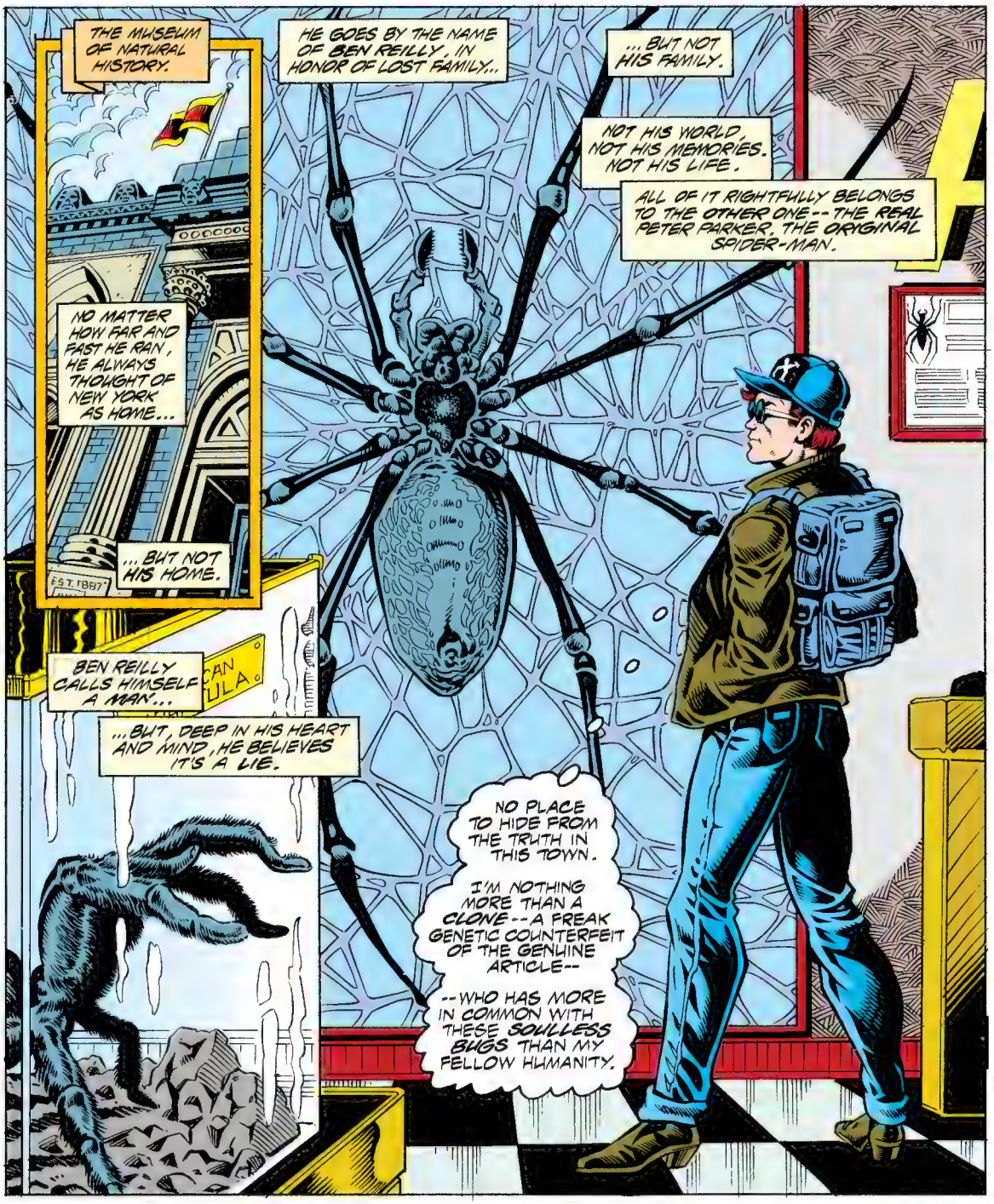
THE EXILE RETURNS PART 1 OF 4
HIS FIRST ADVERSARY--
VENOM!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™


THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.
HE GOES BY THE NAME OF BEN REILLY, IN HONOR OF LOST FAMILY...
...BUT NOT HIS FAMILY.
NOT HIS WORLD, NOT HIS MEMORIES. NOT HIS LIFE.
ALL OF IT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO THE OTHER ONE -- THE REAL PETER PARKER, THE ORIGINAL SPIDER-MAN.
NO MATTER HOW FAR AND FAST HE RAN, HE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF NEW YORK AS HOME...
...BUT NOT HIS HOME.
BEN REILLY CALLS HIMSELF A MAN...
...BUT, DEEP IN HIS HEART AND MIND, HE BELIEVES IT'S A LIE.
NO PLACE TO HIDE FROM THE TRUTH IN THIS TOWN.
I'M NOTHING MORE THAN A CLONE -- A FREAK GENETIC COUNTERFEIT OF THE GENUINE ARTICLE --
-- WHO HAS MORE IN COMMON WITH THESE SOULLESS BUGS THAN MY FELLOW HUMANITY.

CLOSING TIME, SON...
... DOORS OPEN AGAIN AT NINE IN THE MORNING.
I'LL BE LONG GONE BY THEN, FRIEND.
ONLY STOPPED AT THE MUSEUM ON AN IMPULSE...
... BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT NEW YORK IS ALL ABOUT FOR ME -- THE NEVER-ENDING PLACES TO LEARN AND EXPLORE, THE RANGE OF PEOPLE TO SHARE IT WITH.
NOW IT'S JUST ANOTHER PAINFUL REMINDER OF A LIFE I NEVER HAD.
HAD TO COME SEE MAY AS SOON AS I HEARD ABOUT HER CONDITION, BUT THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF --
-- I MISS EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS CITY.
YET I'LL HAVE TO GO INTO ACTION EVENTUALLY IF I STICK AROUND TOO LONG...
... AND I VOWED I'D NEVER DO THAT. THAT'S PETER'S LIFE -- NOT MINE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
SPIDER WORLD
EXPRESS
EVERYWHERE I TURN, THERE'S SOME KIND OF SIGN OR--
HANG ON...
LADIES
--THOSE TWO GOONS TRIGGERED MY SPIDER-SENSE!
BUT I REALLY CAN'T AFFORD TO GET INVOLVED...
"...UNLESS I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO."
WE WON'T ASK TWICE, JOEY.
NEITHER WILL WE, SUCKER...
...DROP THE HARDWARE NOW!
YOU NEVER COULD RESIST AN EASY MARK, MALLOY...
...AND WE'VE BEEN STAKIN' OUT YOUR LITTLE PROTECTION RACKET FOR THE LAST WEEK.
NO ONE WAS INJURED THIS TIME...

...BUT WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE IF SOMEONE HAD BEEN HURT OR KILLED?
CAN I AVOID MY FATE FOREVER?
CAN I REALLY DENY THE TRUTH THAT DEFINES ME--THAT SHAPED ME INTO THE MAN I AM TODAY--
ARACH
SPIDER WORLD
--WITH GREAT POWER MUST COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY...
THE EXILE RETURNS
PART ONE OF FOUR
MEMORIES
TERRY KAVANAGH
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STEVEN BUTLER
Penciler
RANDY EMBERLIN
Inker
STEVE DUTRO
letterer
KEVIN TINSLEY
colorist
ERIC FEIN
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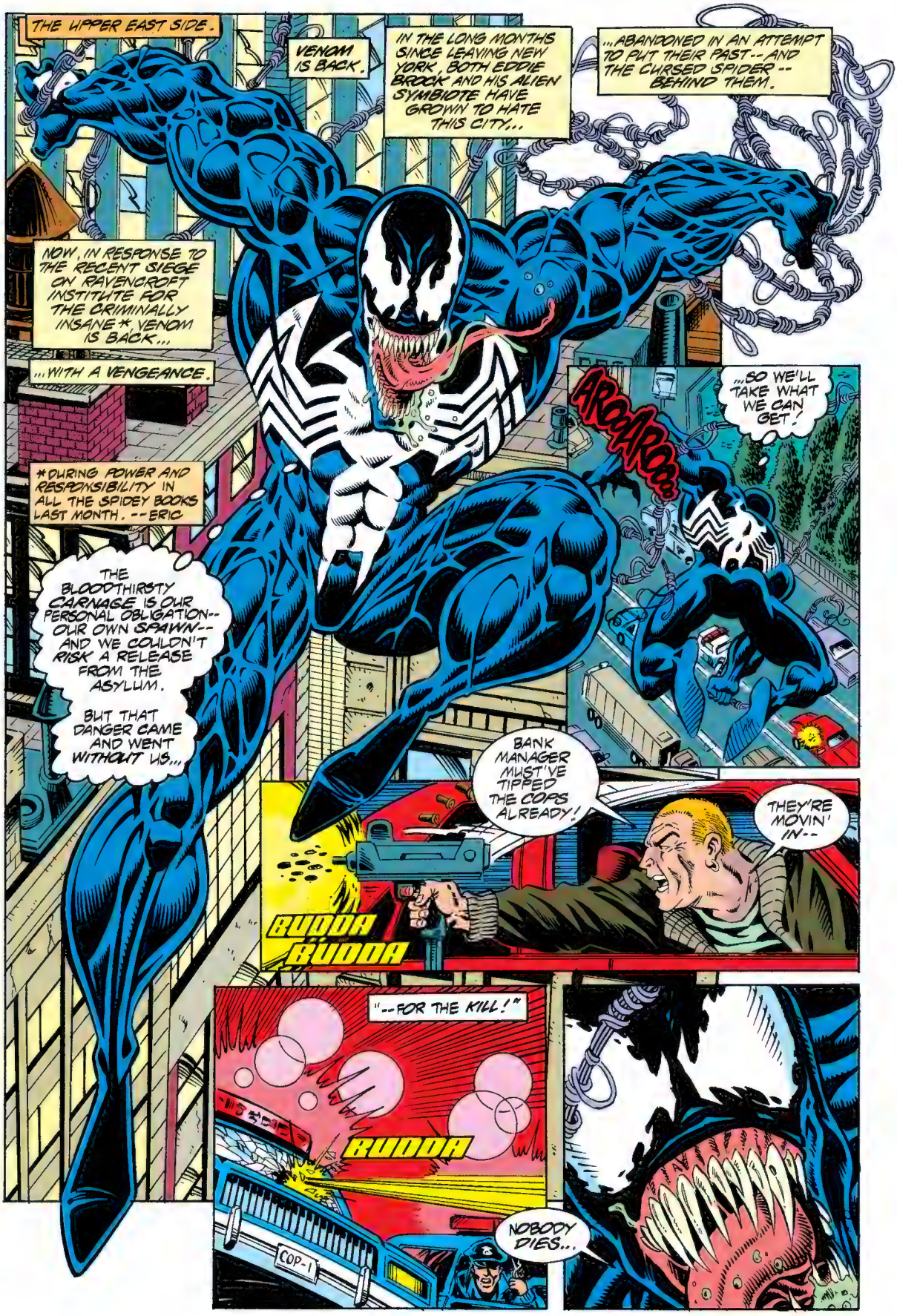
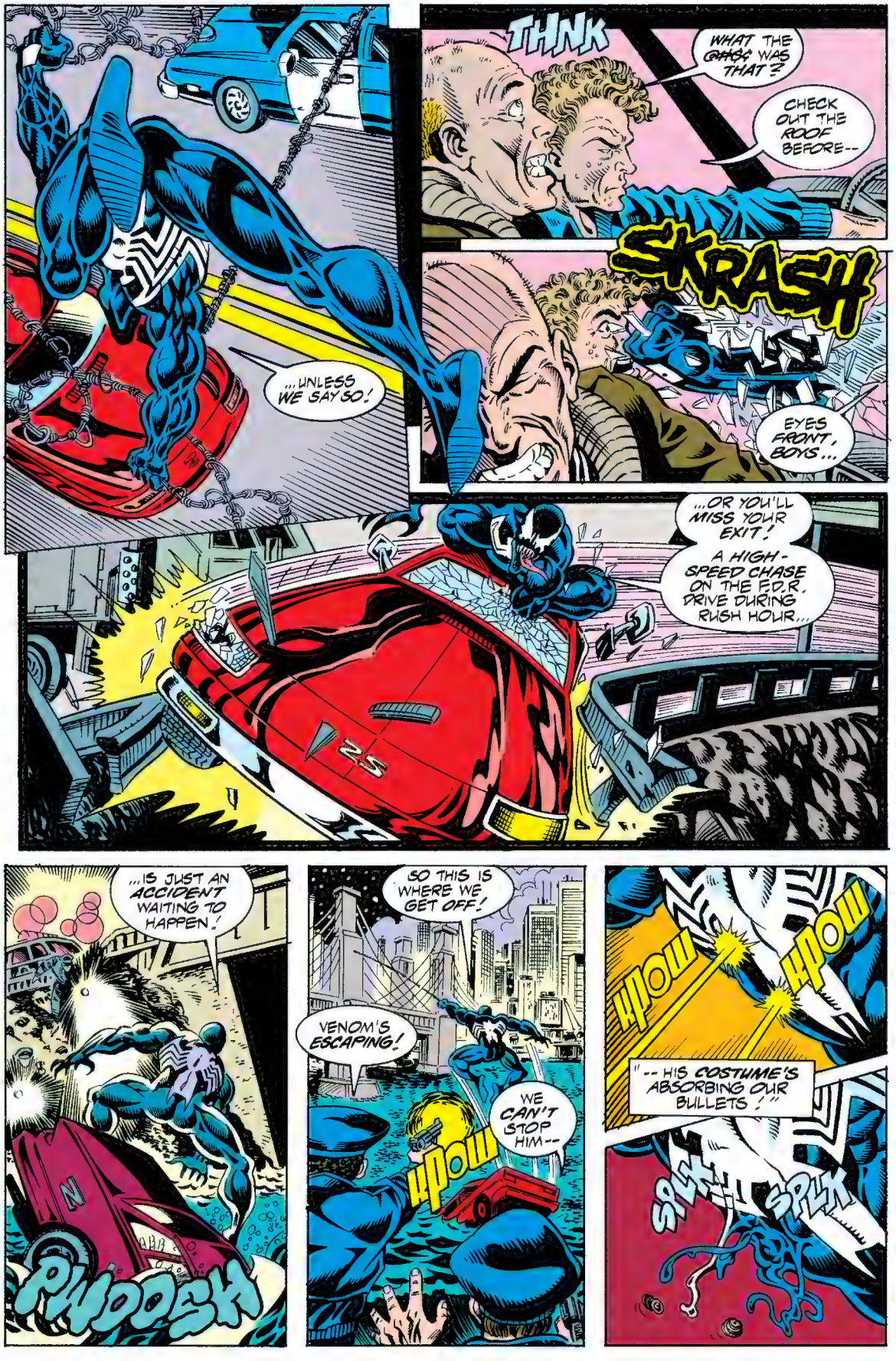
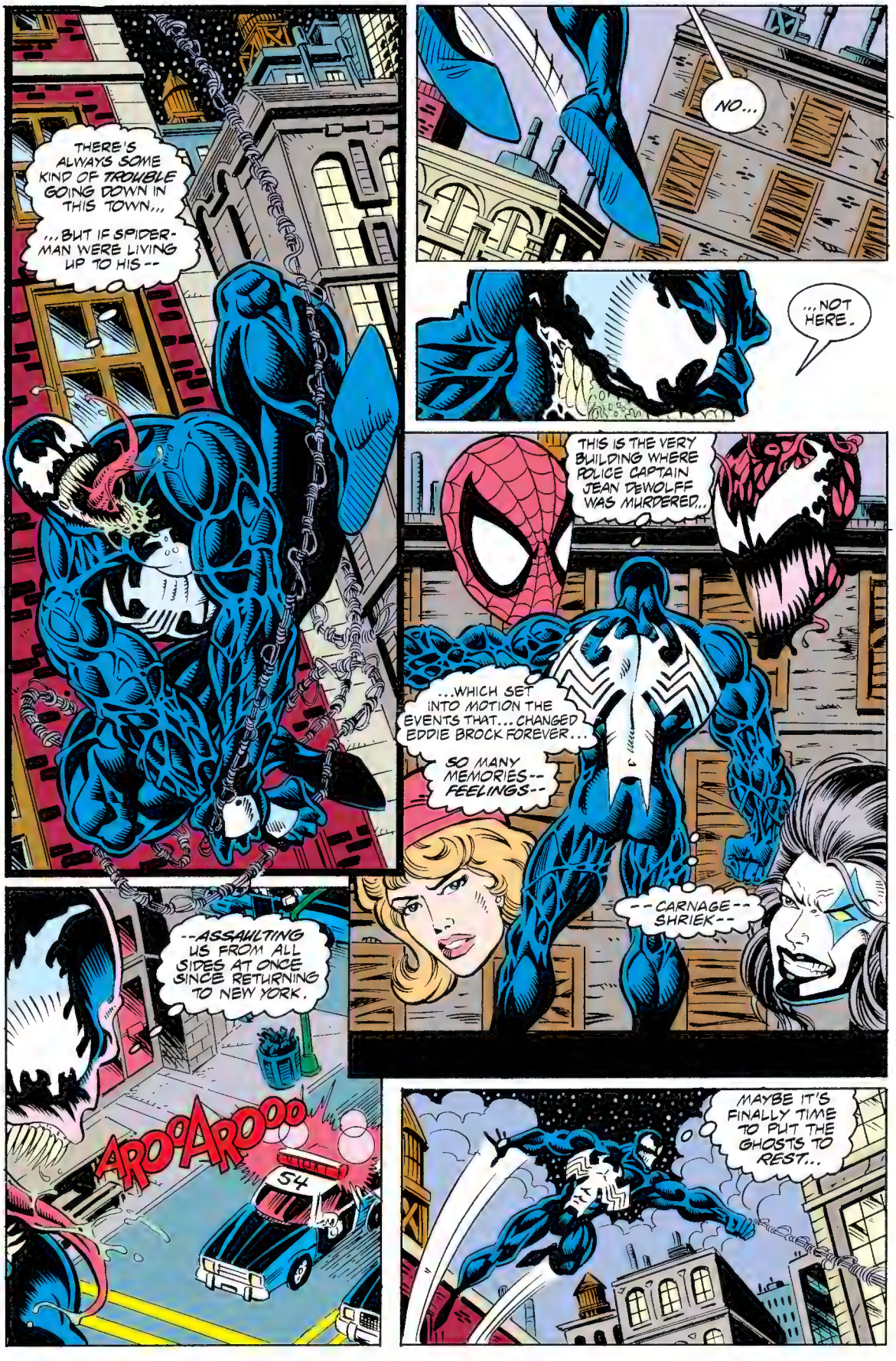
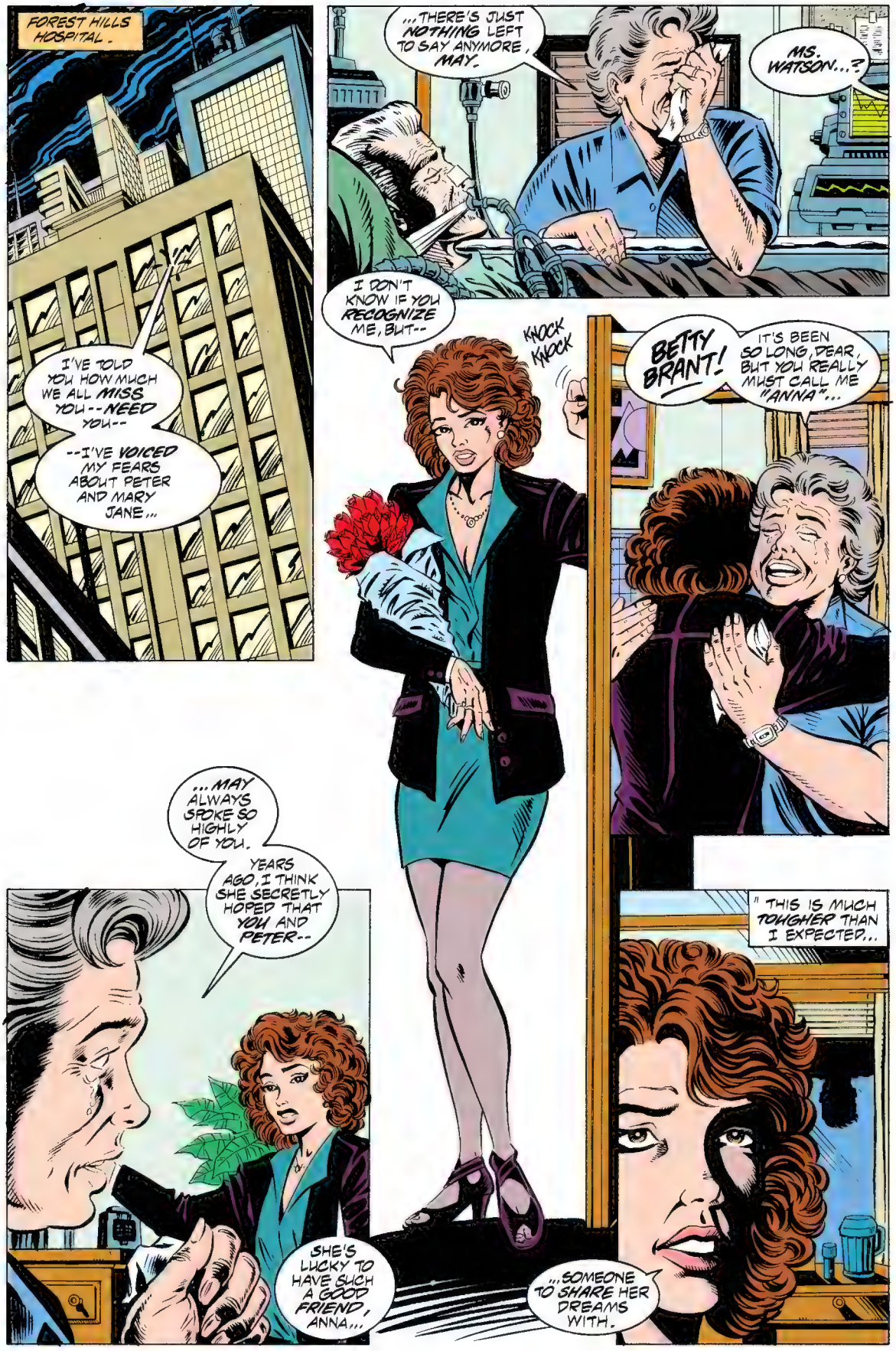

THE UPPER EAST SIDE.
VENOM IS BACK.
IN THE LONG MONTHS SINCE LEAVING NEW YORK, BOTH EDDIE BROCK AND HIS ALIEN SYMBIOTE HAVE GROWN TO HATE THIS CITY...
...ABANDONED IN AN ATTEMPT TO PUT THEIR PAST -- AND THE CURSED SPIDER -- BEHIND THEM.
NOW, IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT SIEGE ON RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE*, VENOM IS BACK...
...WITH A VENGEANCE.
*DURING POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY IN ALL THE SPIDEY BOOKS LAST MONTH. --ERIC
THE BLOODTHIRSTY CARNAGE IS OUR PERSONAL OBLIGATION -- OUR OWN SPAWN -- AND WE COULDN'T RISK A RELEASE FROM THE ASYLUM.
BUT THAT DANGER CAME AND WENT WITHOUT US...
AROARO
...SO WE'LL TAKE WHAT WE CAN GET!
BANK MANAGER MUST'VE TIPPED THE COPS ALREADY!
THEY'RE MOVIN' IN--
BUDDA BUDDA
"--FOR THE KILL!"
BUDDA
COP-1
NOBODY DIES...

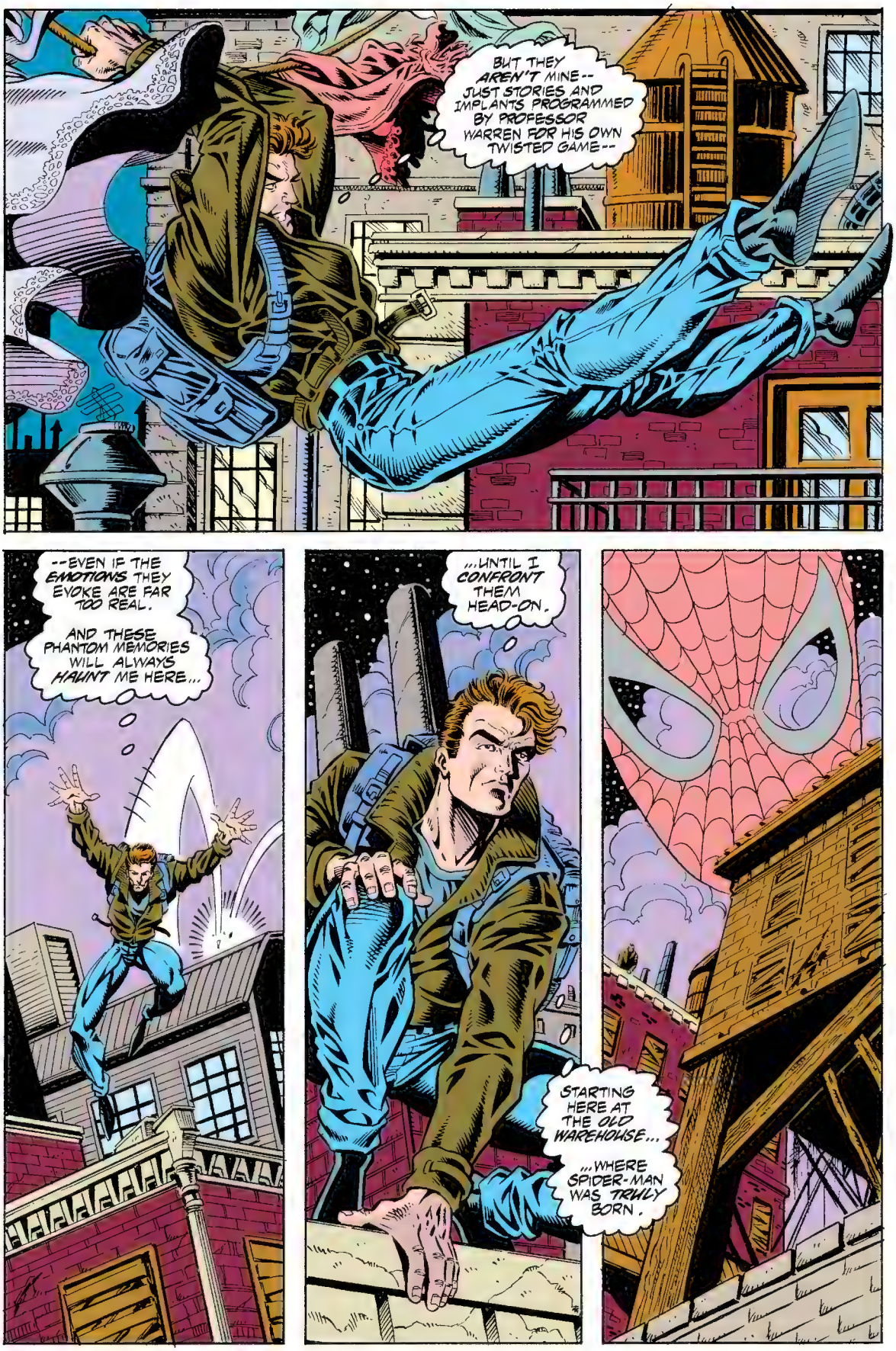

...UNLESS WE SAY SO!
THNK
WHAT THE CRASS WAS THAT?
CHECK OUT THE ROOF BEFORE--
SKRASH
EYES FRONT, BOYS...
...OR YOU'LL MISS YOUR EXIT!
A HIGH-SPEED CHASE ON THE F.D.R. DRIVE DURING RUSH HOUR...
...IS JUST AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN!
PWOOSH
SO THIS IS WHERE WE GET OFF!
VENOM'S ESCAPING!
WE CAN'T STOP HIM--
KPOW
KPOW
KPOW
"--HIS COSTUME'S ABSORBING OUR BULLETS!"
SPLK
SPLK

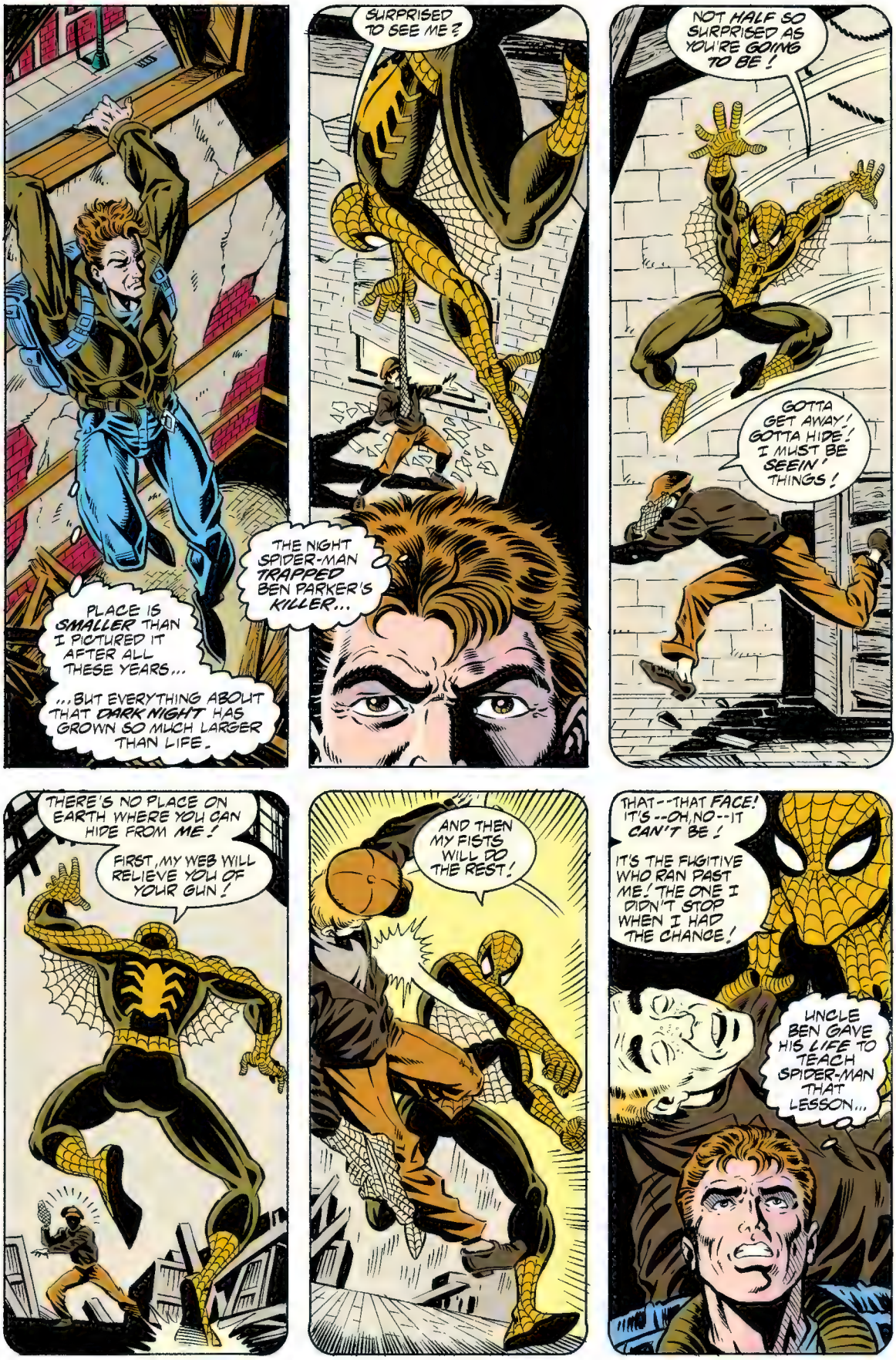

THERE'S ALWAYS SOME KIND OF TROUBLE GOING DOWN IN THIS TOWN...
...BUT IF SPIDER-MAN WERE LIVING UP TO HIS --
NO...
...NOT HERE.
THIS IS THE VERY BUILDING WHERE POLICE CAPTAIN JEAN DEWOLFF WAS MURDERED...
...WHICH SET INTO MOTION THE EVENTS THAT... CHANGED EDDIE BROCK FOREVER...
SO MANY MEMORIES-- FEELINGS--
--CARNAGE-- SHRIEK--
--ASSAULTING US FROM ALL SIDES AT ONCE SINCE RETURNING TO NEW YORK.
AROOAROOO
54
MAYBE IT'S FINALLY TIME TO PUT THE GHOSTS TO REST...

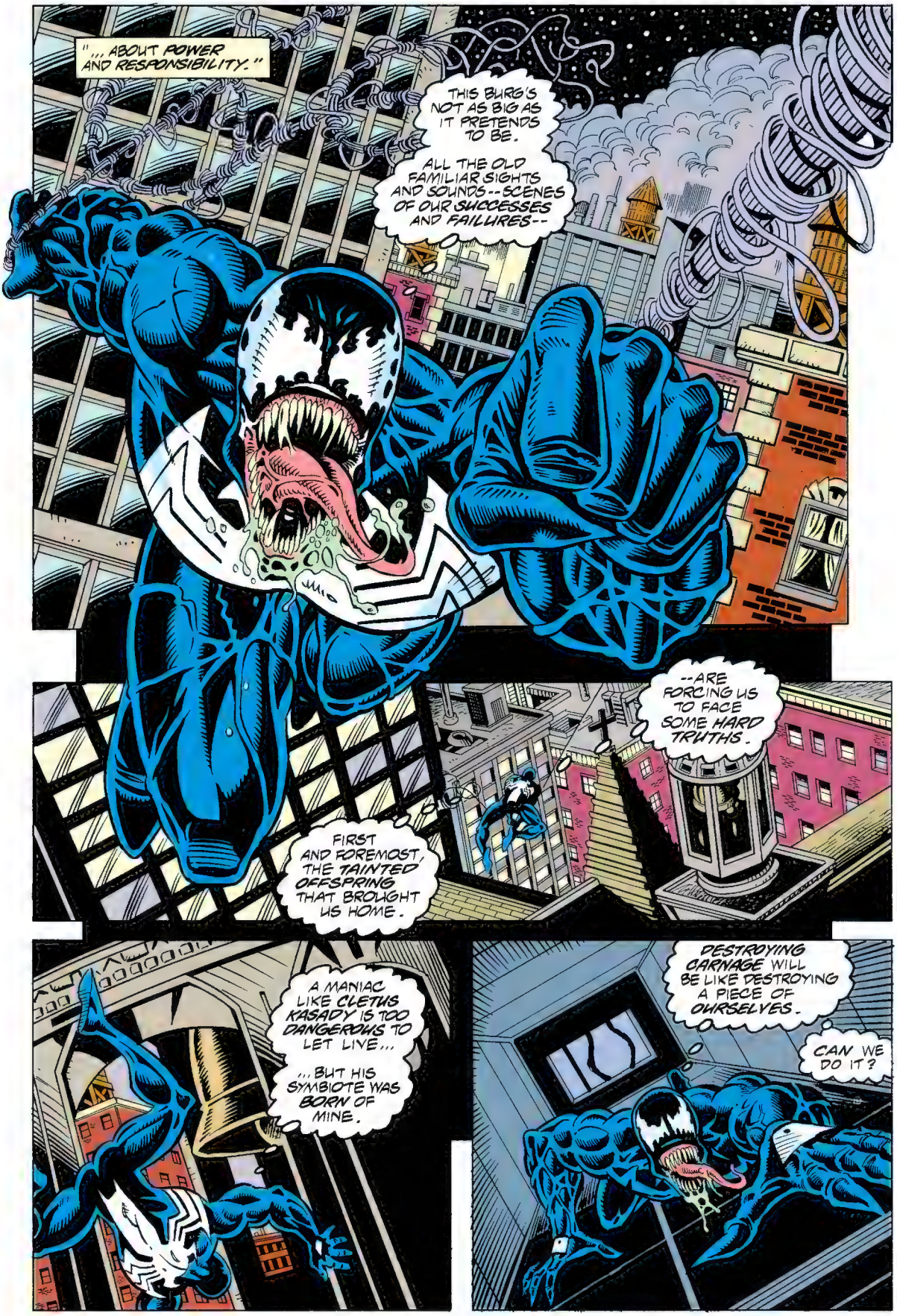

FOREST HILLS HOSPITAL.
I'VE TOLD YOU HOW MUCH WE ALL MISS YOU--NEED YOU--
--I'VE VOICED MY FEARS ABOUT PETER AND MARY JANE...
...THERE'S JUST NOTHING LEFT TO SAY ANYMORE, MAY.
MS. WATSON...?
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU RECOGNIZE ME, BUT--
KNOCK KNOCK
BETTY BRANT!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, DEAR, BUT YOU REALLY MUST CALL ME "ANNA"...
...MAY ALWAYS SPOKE SO HIGHLY OF YOU.
YEARS AGO, I THINK SHE SECRETLY HOPED THAT YOU AND PETER--
SHE'S LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH A GOOD FRIEND, ANNA...
"THIS IS MUCH TOUGHER THAN I EXPECTED...
...SOMEONE TO SHARE HER DREAMS WITH.

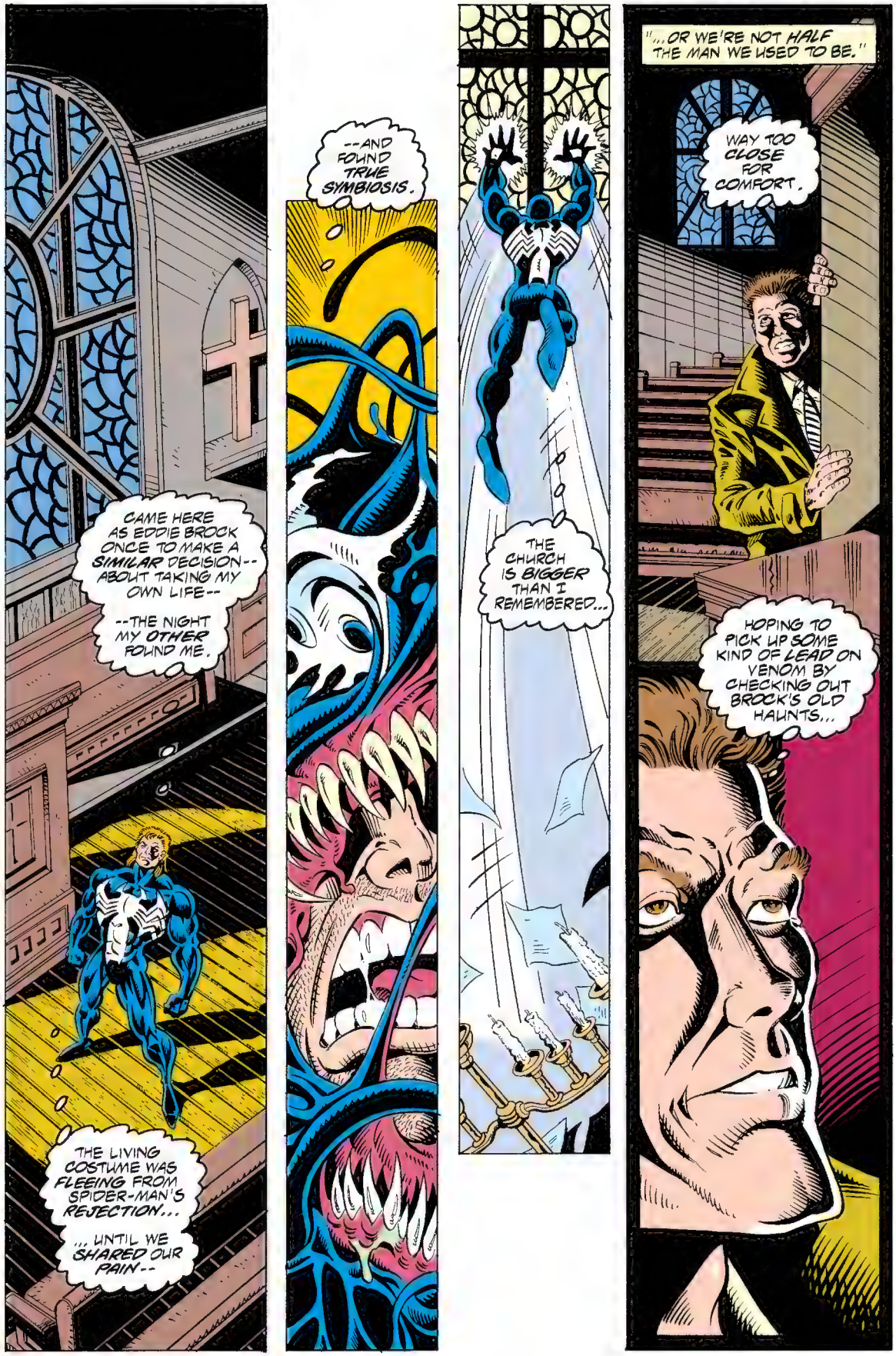
I SHOULD BE OUT OF THE CITY BY NOW.
BUT I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO LEAVE MAY BEHIND JUST YET...
...AND EVERY HOUR I SPEND IN NEW YORK--
WAIT A MINUTE...
...IS THAT BETTY BRANT?!
DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THE WIDE-EYED INNOCENT I LIKE TO REMEMBER...
"...SO MUCH HAS CHANGED."
WISH I'D SPENT MORE TIME WITH THE PARKERS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS...
...BUT IT TOOK NICK KATZENBERG'S SUDDEN DEATH AND LANCE BANNON'S SENSELESS MURDER TO MAKE ME REALIZE HOW FRAGILE LIFE CAN BE--
HANG ON...
...SHADOWS JUST SHIFTED ACROSS THAT WALL--
--FROM THE EMPTY WINDOW?!
"AS LONG AS I STAY...
...I CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

BUT I WON'T DISHONOR EVERYTHING UNCLE BEN TAUGHT ME ABOUT DUTY AND OBLIGATION...
...BY DESERTING THE LOVING WOMAN WHO SACRIFICED ALL TO RAISE ME--
RAISE HIM. TAUGHT HIM.
GOT USED TO INDULGING THESE MEMORIES AS IF THEY WERE MY OWN...
...AS LONG AS I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM NEW YORK--AND THE TRUE PETER PARKER--WHERE NO ONE ELSE WAS THREATENED BY THEM.


BUT THEY AREN'T MINE-- JUST STORIES AND IMPLANTS PROGRAMMED BY PROFESSOR WARREN FOR HIS OWN TWISTED GAME--
--EVEN IF THE EMOTIONS THEY EVOKE ARE FAR TOO REAL.
AND THESE PHANTOM MEMORIES WILL ALWAYS HAUNT ME HERE...
...UNTIL I CONFRONT THEM HEAD-ON.
STARTING HERE AT THE OLD WAREHOUSE...
...WHERE SPIDER-MAN WAS TRULY BORN.

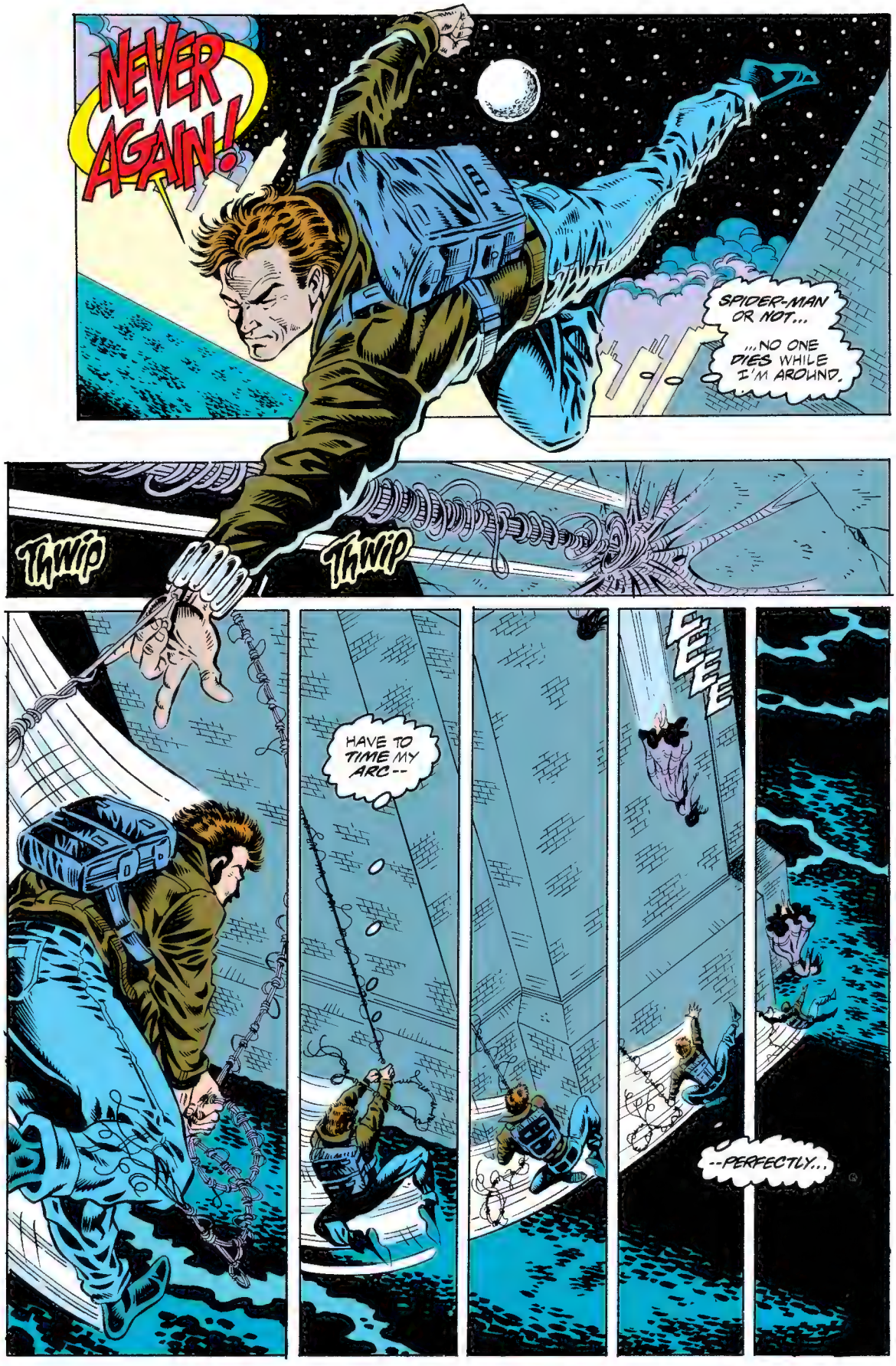

PLACE IS SMALLER THAN I PICTURED IT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
...BUT EVERYTHING ABOUT THAT DARK NIGHT HAS GROWN SO MUCH LARGER THAN LIFE.
THE NIGHT SPIDER-MAN TRAPPED BEN PARKER'S KILLER...
SURPRISED TO SEE ME?
NOT HALF SO SURPRISED AS YOU'RE GOING TO BE!
GOTTA GET AWAY! GOTTA HIDE! I MUST BE SEEIN' THINGS!
THERE'S NO PLACE ON EARTH WHERE YOU CAN HIDE FROM ME!
FIRST, MY WEB WILL RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR GUN!
AND THEN MY FISTS WILL DO THE REST!
THAT--THAT FACE! IT'S--OH, NO--IT CAN'T BE!
IT'S THE FUGITIVE WHO RAN PAST ME! THE ONE I DIDN'T STOP WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!
UNCLE BEN GAVE HIS LIFE TO TEACH SPIDER-MAN THAT LESSON...

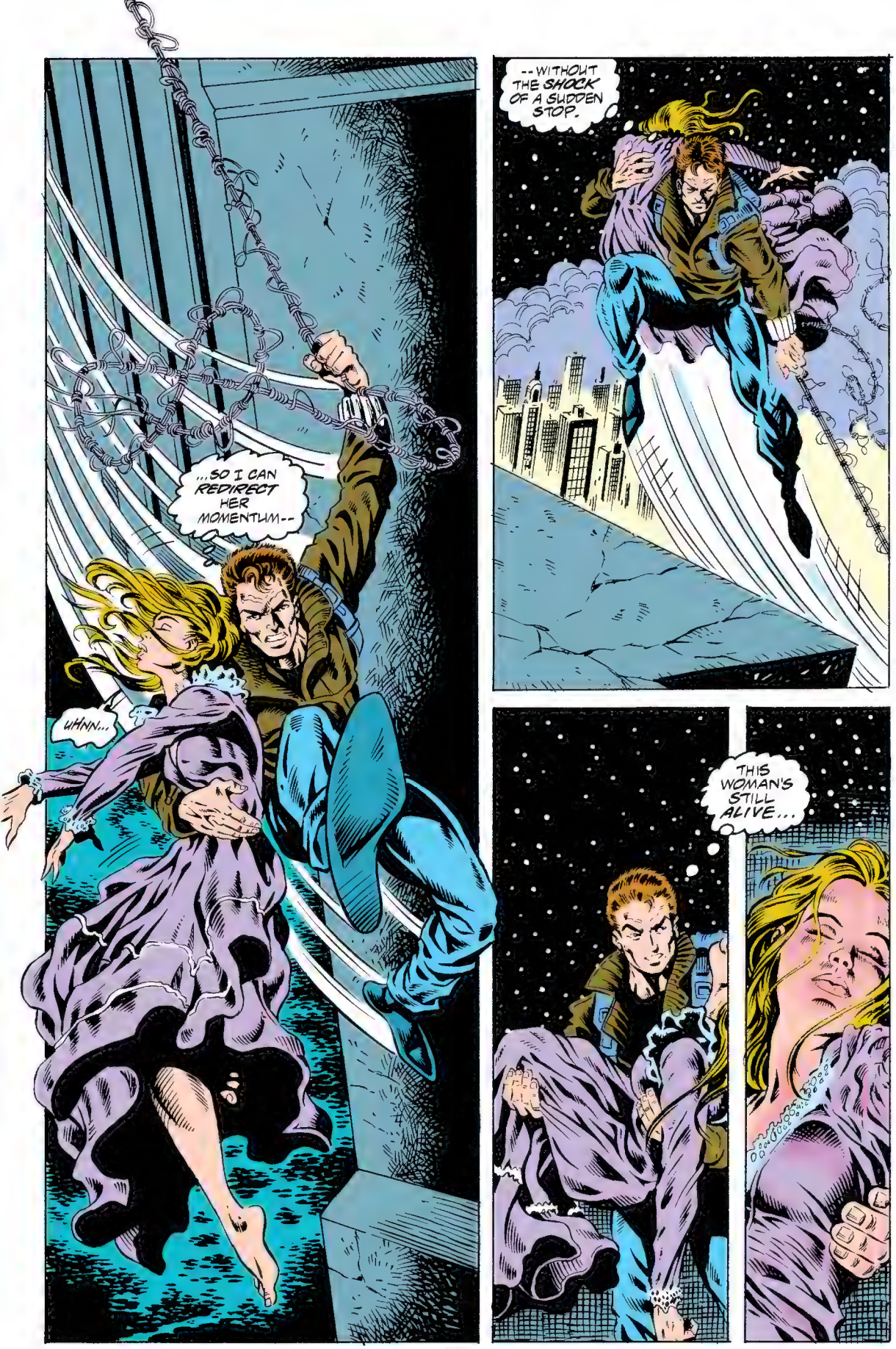

"... ABOUT POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY."
THIS BURG'S NOT AS BIG AS IT PRETENDS TO BE.
ALL THE OLD FAMILIAR SIGHTS AND SOUNDS--SCENES OF OUR SUCCESSES AND FAILURES--
--ARE FORCING US TO FACE SOME HARD TRUTHS.
FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE TAINTED OFFSPRING THAT BROUGHT US HOME.
A MANIAC LIKE CLETUS KASADY IS TOO DANGEROUS TO LET LIVE...
...BUT HIS SYMBIOTE WAS BORN OF MINE.
DESTROYING CARNAGE WILL BE LIKE DESTROYING A PIECE OF OURSELVES.
CAN WE DO IT?


CAME HERE AS EDDIE BROCK ONCE TO MAKE A SIMILAR DECISION-- ABOUT TAKING MY OWN LIFE--
--THE NIGHT MY OTHER FOUND ME.
THE LIVING COSTUME WAS FLEEING FROM SPIDER-MAN'S REJECTION...
... UNTIL WE SHARED OUR PAIN--
--AND FOUND TRUE SYMBIOSIS.
THE CHURCH IS BIGGER THAN I REMEMBERED...
"... OR WE'RE NOT HALF THE MAN WE USED TO BE."
WAY TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT.
HOPING TO PICK UP SOME KIND OF LEAD ON VENOM BY CHECKING OUT BROCK'S OLD HAUNTS...

"...BUT THIS STORY HAS JUST BEGUN."
THE WHOLE CITY AT MY FEET AGAIN, AND I END UP HERE AT THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE...
...WHERE LOVE DIED FOR PETER PARKER.
SO GROGGY WITH A COLD THAT NIGHT, AND THE GREEN GOBLIN--MY BEST FRIEND'S FATHER--
--WAS TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THAT...
BRASH FOOL!
YOUR END IS NEAR--
-- WHY BE SO BLIND AS NOT TO SEE IT?
I'VE GOT TO PUT EVERYTHING INTO THIS ONE PUNCH--
EVERYTHING I HAVE!
YOU'LL NEVER TAKE THAT GIRL ANYWHERE!
SHE'S DOOMED, DO YOU HEAR ME?
DOOMED--AND SO ARE YOU!
GWEN! NO!
I'VE GOT TO CATCH HER--
DID IT!
"TOO LITTLE...

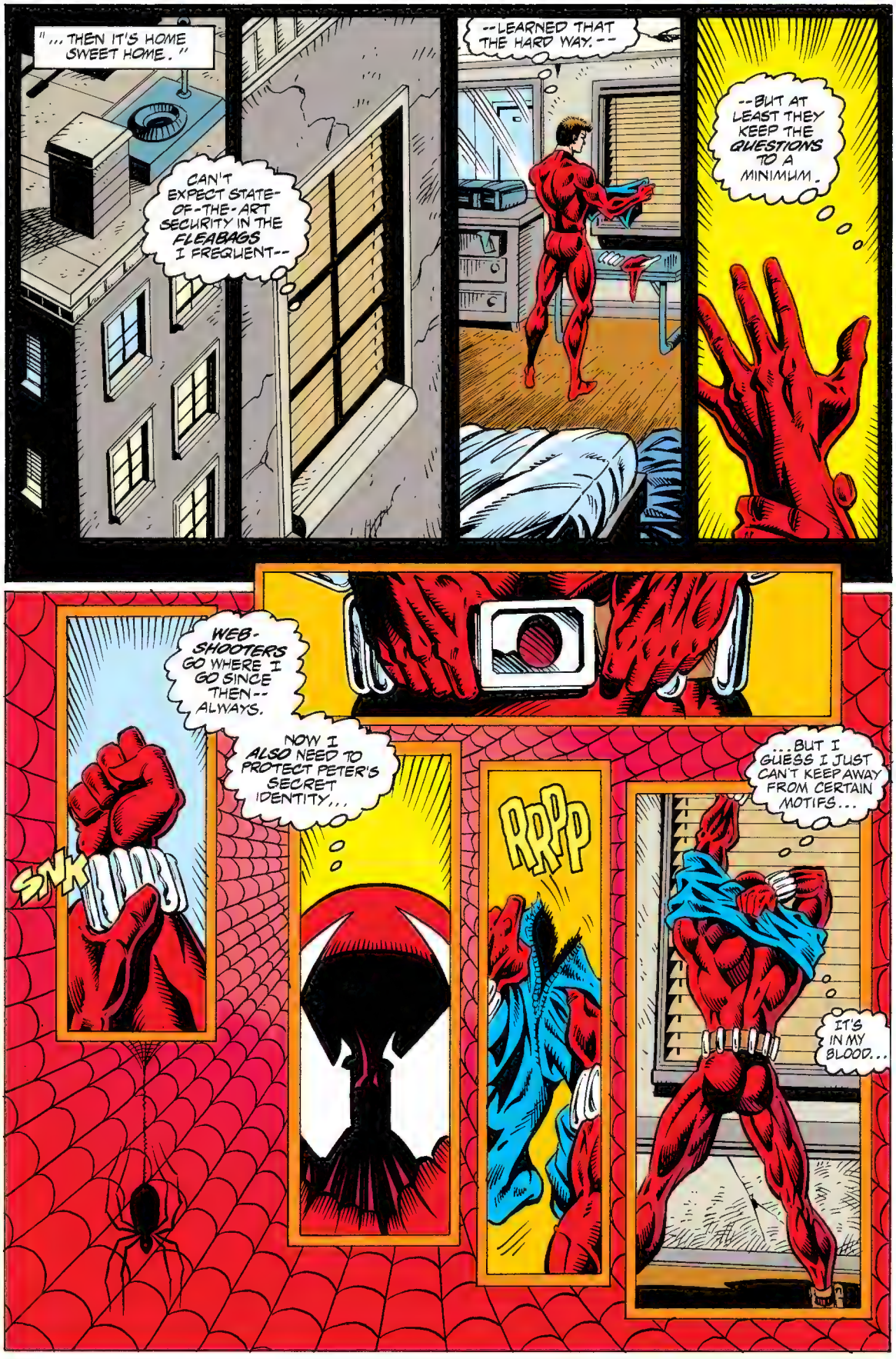
"...TOO LATE."
YOU KILLED THE WOMAN I LOVE--
THE MOST PAINFUL MEMORIES HIT SO HARD SOMETIMES...
...I'M ALMOST GLAD THEY'RE NOT MINE.
YET GWEN STACY'S DEATH ACTUALLY PLANTED THE SEEDS OF WARREN'S WARPED HATRED--
WAIT!
ON THE FAR PARAPET... IS THAT--
A WOMAN ON THE EDGE, LITERALLY. SHE'S GOING TO JUMP.
NO.
SNK
"BUT SHE LOOKS SO SCARED-- SO UNCERTAIN--
"--AND I CAN'T TELL IF SHE'S MORE AFRAID OF LIFE...
"...OR DEATH.
AIEEE!
"NOT AGAIN!"

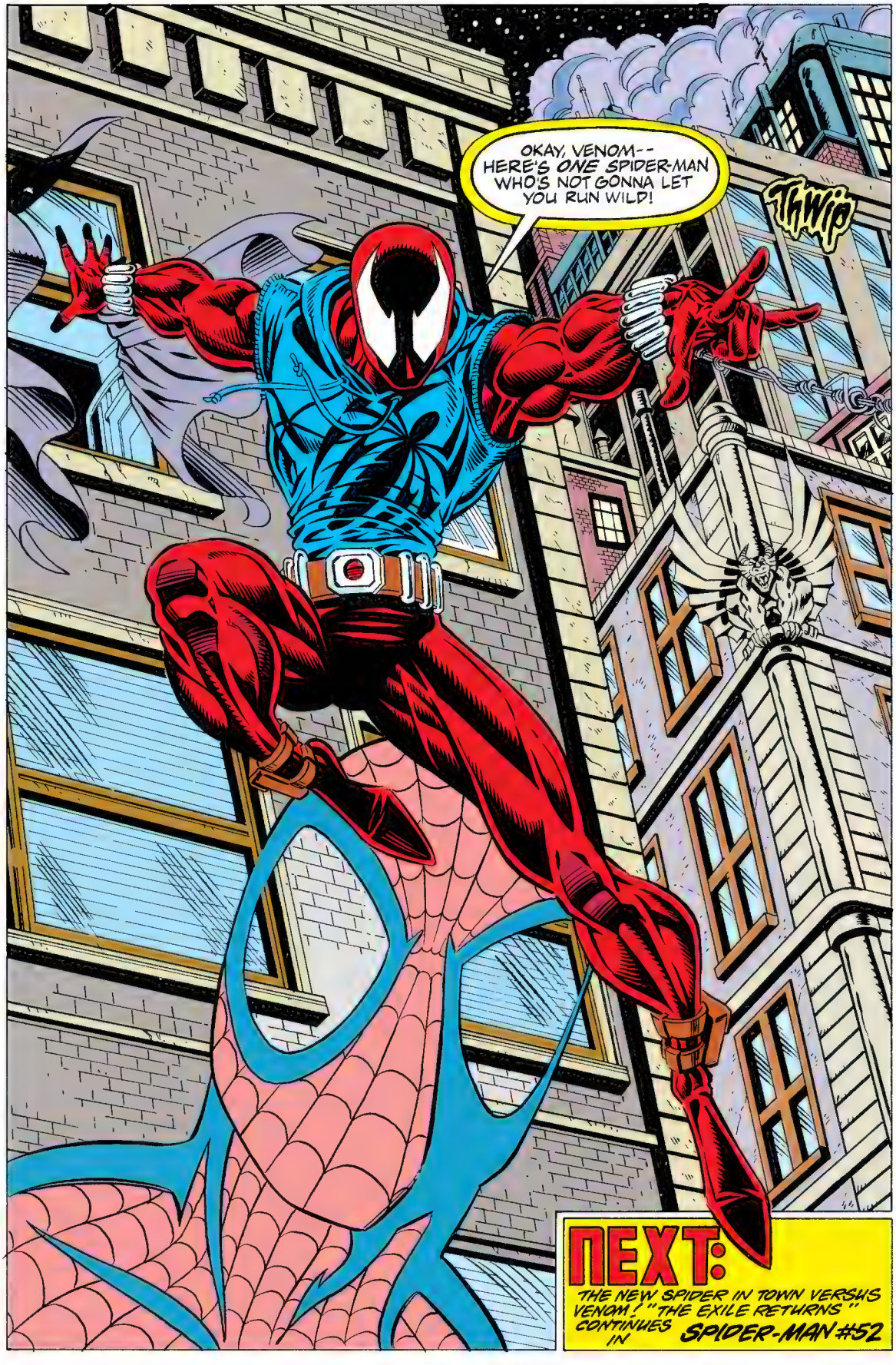

NEVER AGAIN!
SPIDER-MAN OR NOT...
...NO ONE DIES WHILE I'M AROUND.
THWIP
THWIP
HAVE TO TIME MY ARC--
EEEE
--PERFECTLY...


--WITHOUT THE SHOCK OF A SUDDEN STOP.
...SO I CAN REDIRECT HER MOMENTUM--
UHNN...
THIS WOMAN'S STILL ALIVE...

"...BUT I'VE GOT TO GET HER TO A HOSPITAL."
I NEED A STRETCHER OVER HERE FAST, FOLKS--
CY EXIT
--AND A STETHOSCOPE WITH A SYMPATHETIC EAR.
THINK SHE JUST FAINTED, DOC...
...WHEN SHE TOOK A THIMBLE FROM THE TOP OF THE BRIDGE.
SPIDER-MAN CAUGHT HER, BUT I--
MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME, YOUNG MAN, AND THE POLICE WILL WANT A--
--STATEMENT?
WHY WOULD HE VANISH LIKE THAT...?

"...HE'S A HERO!"
ALL MY WORST FEARS ARE COMING TRUE...
...THIS CITY'S A TRAP.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING LEFT UNDONE--OR SOMEONE WHO NEEDS HELP--
LATEST UPDATE FROM OUR VENOMWATCH '94 SPOTTERS PUTS THE VICIOUS VIGILANTE SOMEWHERE ON THE UPPER EAST SIDE...
HEARD SO MANY NASTY STORIES ABOUT THAT PSYCHO--
--IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE SPIDEY NEVER DEALT WITH HIM...
QUICK STOP AT THE MUSEUM FIRST...


"...THEN IT'S HOME SWEET HOME."
CAN'T EXPECT STATE-OF-THE-ART SECURITY IN THE FLEABAGS I FREQUENT--
--LEARNED THAT THE HARD WAY.--
--BUT AT LEAST THEY KEEP THE QUESTIONS TO A MINIMUM.
WEB-SHOOTERS GO WHERE I GO SINCE THEN--ALWAYS.
SNK
NOW I ALSO NEED TO PROTECT PETER'S SECRET IDENTITY...
RRP
...BUT I GUESS I JUST CAN'T KEEP AWAY FROM CERTAIN MOTIFS...
IT'S IN MY BLOOD...


OKAY, VENOM-- HERE'S ONE SPIDER-MAN WHO'S NOT GONNA LET YOU RUN WILD!
THWIP
NEXT:
THE NEW SPIDER IN TOWN VERSUS VENOM! "THE EXILE RETURNS" CONTINUES IN SPIDER-MAN #52

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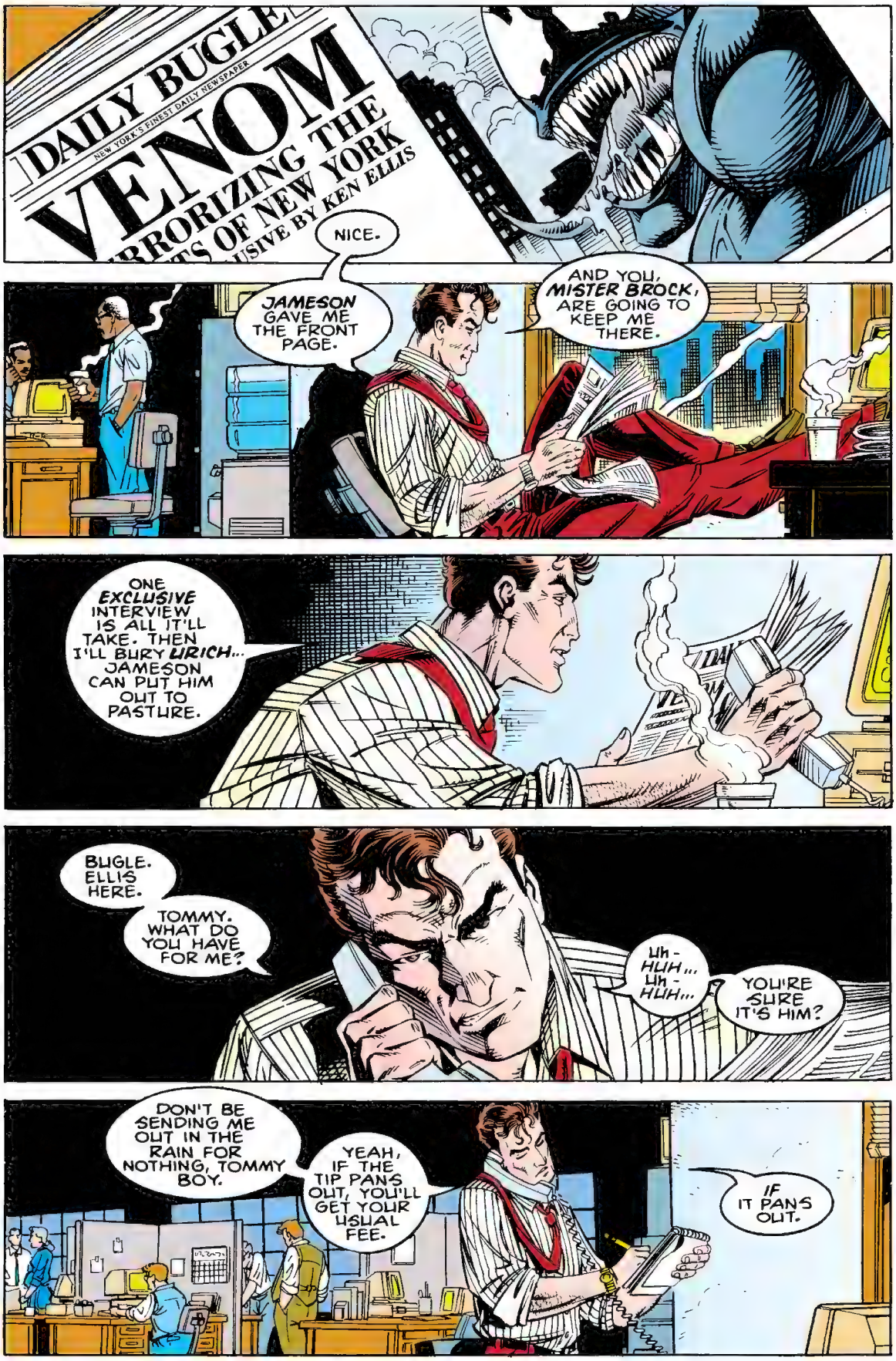
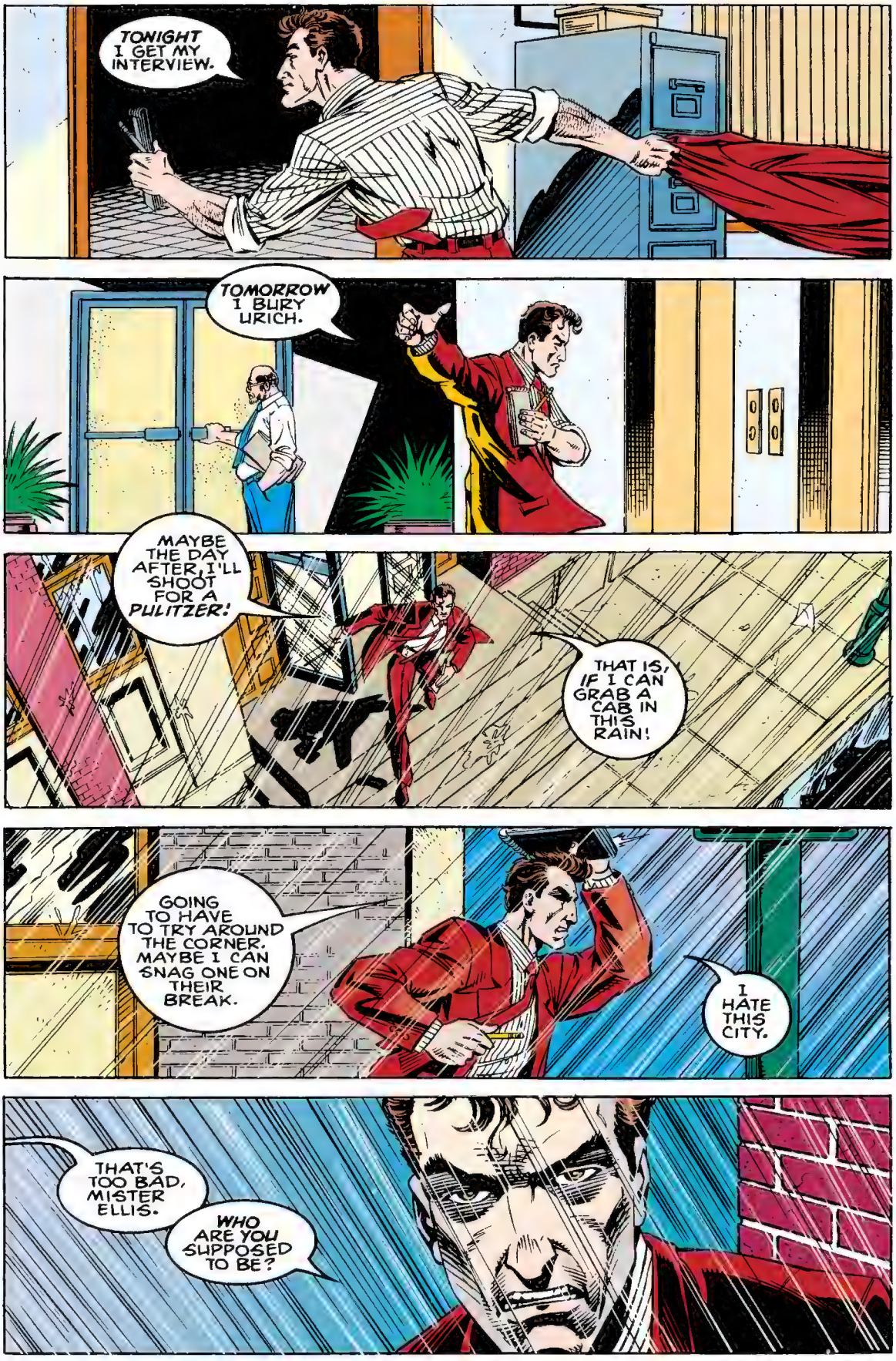
THE CLONE AGAINST SPIDER-MAN'S MOST LETHAL FOE!
THE EXILE RETURNS PART 2 OF 4
VENOM IS BACK--AND HE SURE AIN'T A GOOD GUY!


DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER
VENOM
RRORIZING THE
TS OF NEW YORK
USIVE BY KEN ELLIS
NICE.
JAMESON GAVE ME THE FRONT PAGE.
AND YOU, MISTER BROCK, ARE GOING TO KEEP ME THERE.
ONE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IS ALL IT'LL TAKE. THEN I'LL BURY URICH... JAMESON CAN PUT HIM OUT TO PASTURE.
BUGLE. ELLIS HERE.
TOMMY. WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?
UH-HUH... UH-HUH...
YOU'RE SURE IT'S HIM?
DON'T BE SENDING ME OUT IN THE RAIN FOR NOTHING, TOMMY BOY.
YEAH, IF THE TIP PANS OUT, YOU'LL GET YOUR USUAL FEE.
IF IT PANS OUT.


TONIGHT I GET MY INTERVIEW.
TOMORROW I BURY URICH.
MAYBE THE DAY AFTER, I'LL SHOOT FOR A PULITZER!
THAT IS, IF I CAN GRAB A CAB IN THIS RAIN!
GOING TO HAVE TO TRY AROUND THE CORNER. MAYBE I CAN SNAG ONE ON THEIR BREAK.
I HATE THIS CITY.
THAT'S TOO BAD, MISTER ELLIS.
WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

NOBODY.
NOBODY IMPORTANT AT ALL.
STAN LEE PRESENTS
~~SPIDER-MAN~~
BEN REILLY
IN
DEADLINE
MACKIE · LYLE · HANNA · COMICRAFT · TINSLEY · FINGEROTH · DeFALCO

GOT NO TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW.

CALL ME. WE CAN TALK LATER.

I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD *MAKE* TIME, MISTER ELLIS.

THE NAME'S *KEN*, AND...

...WHO DO YOU THINK *YOU* ARE? *SPIDER-MAN?*

NO... I'D NEVER THINK *THAT!*

BUT I DO NEED YOUR HELP! I NEED TO FIND VENOM... TO STOP HIM... I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM THE CITY FOR TOO LONG... I CAN'T GET A BEAD ON HIM.

THWIP

THEN I READ YOUR ARTICLE. YOU SEEM TO HAVE THE INSIDE TRACK ON VENOM. YOU CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN HIM LAST NIGHT... AT THE CHURCH... I NEED YOUR HELP FINDING HIM.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME, HERO?

I'M NO HERO. THIS IS JUST SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.

AND I WANT AN INTERVIEW WITH VENOM... AND NOW... MAYBE... WITH *YOU!*

I HAVE NOTHING INTERESTING TO SAY!

YOU NEVER KNOW. I'VE GOT A LEAD ON WHERE VENOM IS RIGHT NOW. I GIVE IT TO YOU AND YOU CATCH HIM... I WANT AN *EXCLUSIVE* FROM BOTH OF YOU.

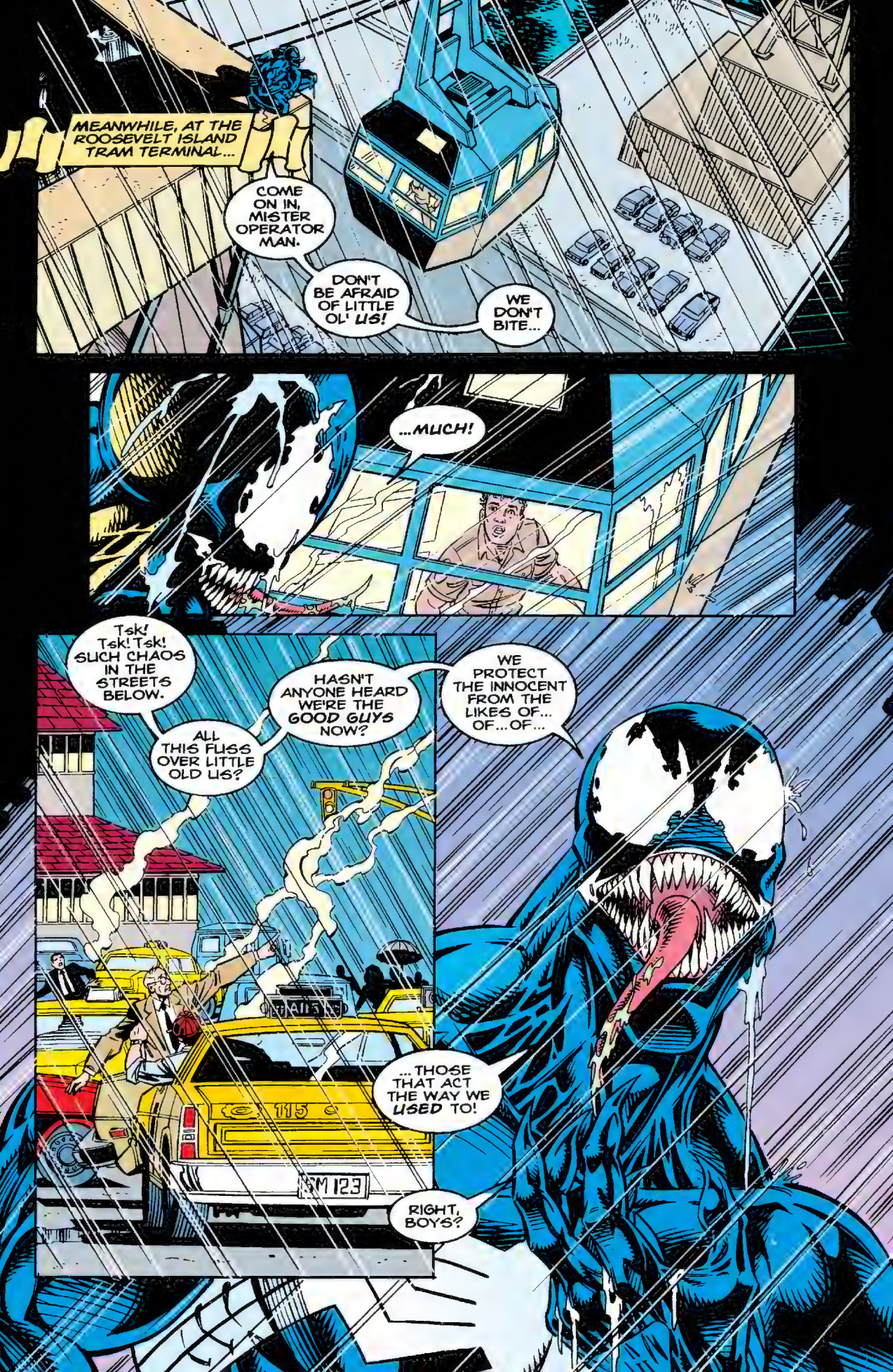
I DON'T KNOW...

GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. YOU SEEM LIKE A MAN OF YOUR WORD.

HE'S BEEN SPOTTED OVER AT THE *ROOSEVELT ISLAND TRAM TERMINAL*. I'M HEADING OVER THERE MYSELF.

WANT TO SPLIT A CAB?

SEE YOU THERE... *HERO!*

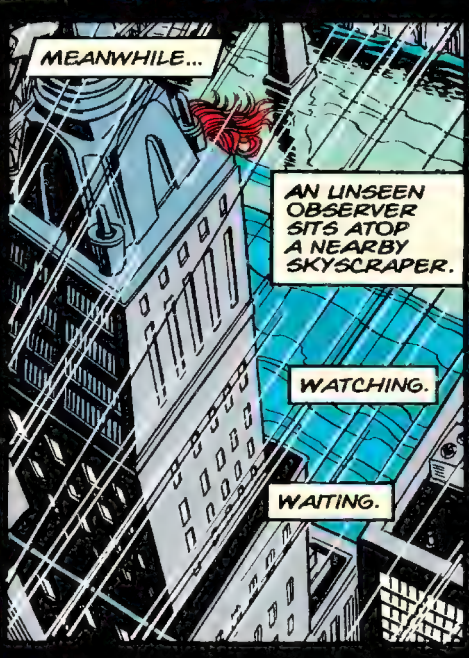

MEANWHILE, AT THE ROOSEVELT ISLAND TRAM TERMINAL...
COME ON IN, MISTER OPERATOR MAN.
DON'T BE AFRAID OF LITTLE OL' US!
WE DON'T BITE...
...MUCH!
Tsk! Tsk! Tsk! SUCH CHAOS IN THE STREETS BELOW.
ALL THIS FUSS OVER LITTLE OLD US?
HASN'T ANYONE HEARD WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS NOW?
WE PROTECT THE INNOCENT FROM THE LIKES OF... OF... OF...
...THOSE THAT ACT THE WAY WE USED TO!
RIGHT, BOYS?

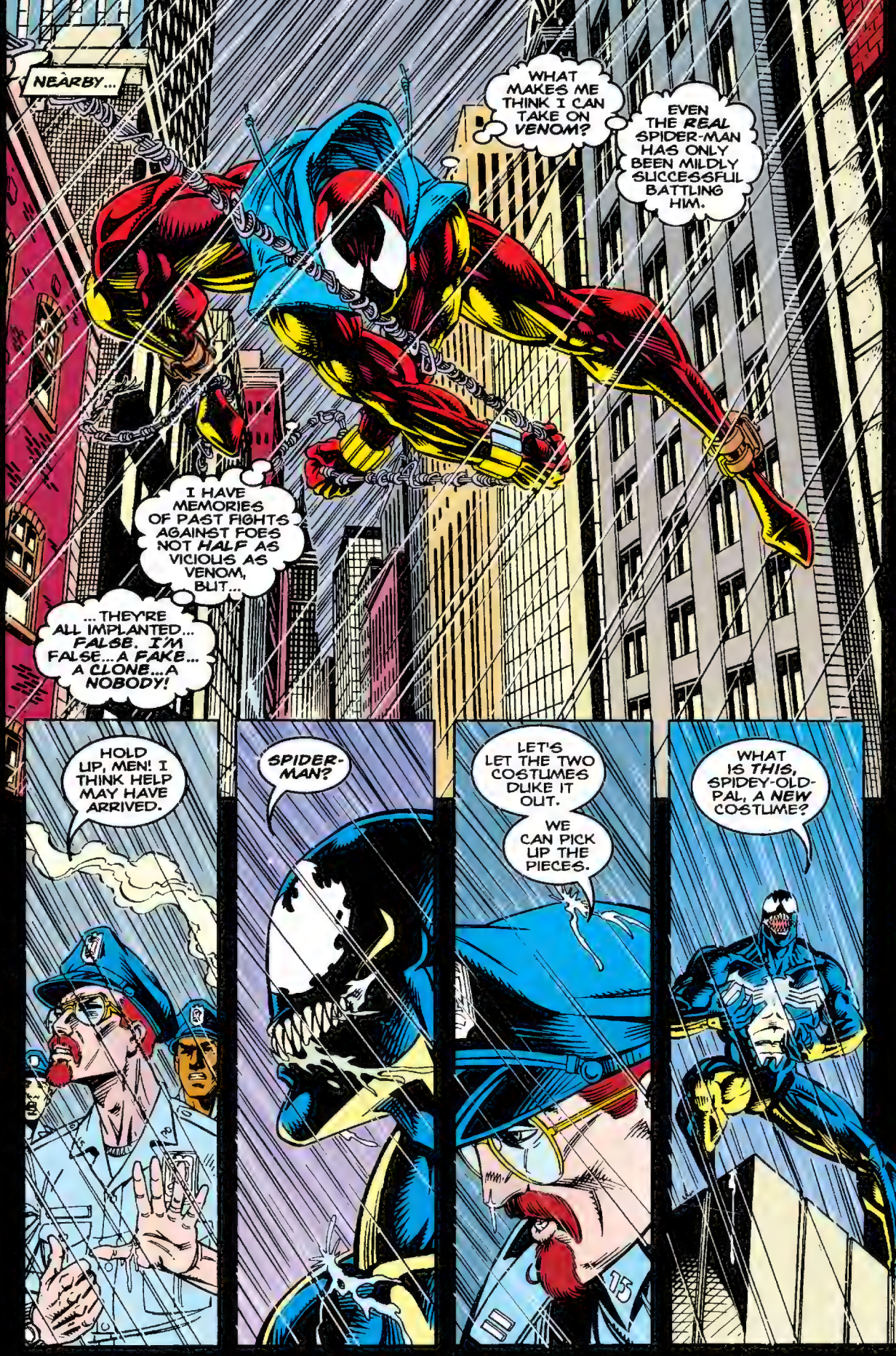
EXCUSE THEM... THEY'RE NOT IN THE TALKING MOOD!
SWEPT THE STREETS AROUND HERE CLEAN OF MUGGERS, THIEVES AND KILLERS OF ALL TYPES.
I DON'T HEAR ANY "THANK YOU, MISTER VENOM!"

NO. INSTEAD, NEW YORK'S FINEST APPEAR ON THE SCENE TO TRY AND KILL ME!
WE'RE THE VILLAIN... RIGHT?
MAYBE WE ARE.

MAYBE WE DESERVE TO DIE... TO PAY FOR OUR SINS!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE ENDANGERED INNOCENT LIVES?

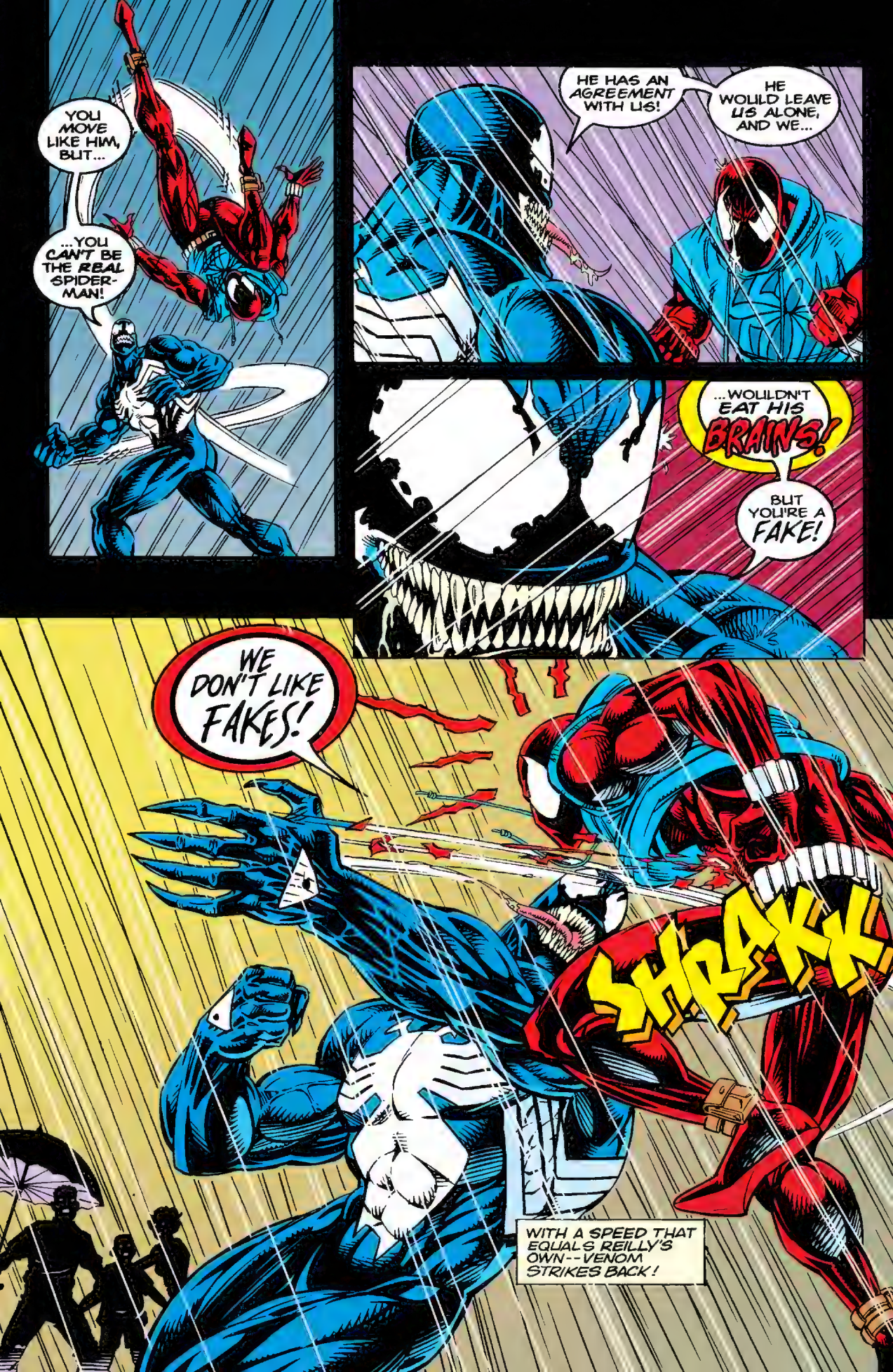
IT WAS US WHO SPAWNED CARNAGE!
IT WAS THE CHANCE TO KILL HIM, ONCE AND FOR ALL, HIM THAT BROUGHT US BACK TO NEW YORK.
SHOULD WE BE LAYING AMONGST THE BODIES OF OUR OWN VICTIMS?
NAH!

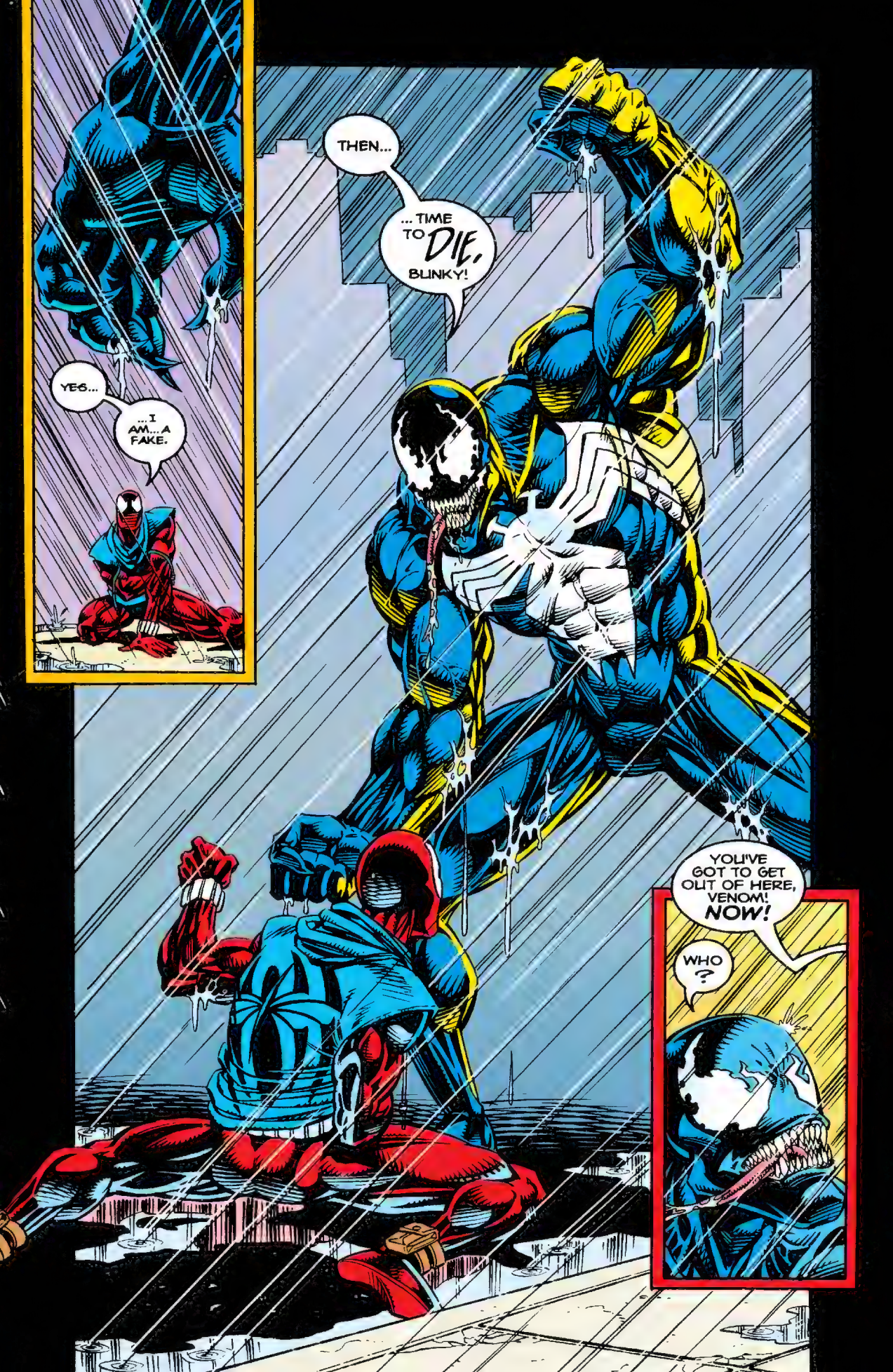

MEANWHILE...
AN UNSEEN OBSERVER SITS ATOP A NEARBY SKYSCRAPER.
WATCHING.
WAITING.


NEARBY...
WHAT MAKES ME THINK I CAN TAKE ON VENOM?
EVEN THE REAL SPIDER-MAN HAS ONLY BEEN MILDLY SUCCESSFUL BATTLING HIM.
I HAVE MEMORIES OF PAST FIGHTS AGAINST FOES NOT HALF AS VICIOUS AS VENOM, BUT...
...THEY'RE ALL IMPLANTED... FALSE. I'M FALSE...A FAKE... A CLONE...A NOBODY!
HOLD UP, MEN! I THINK HELP MAY HAVE ARRIVED.
SPIDER-MAN?
LET'S LET THE TWO COSTUMES DUKE IT OUT.
WE CAN PICK UP THE PIECES.
WHAT IS THIS, SPIDEY-OLD-PAL, A NEW COSTUME?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

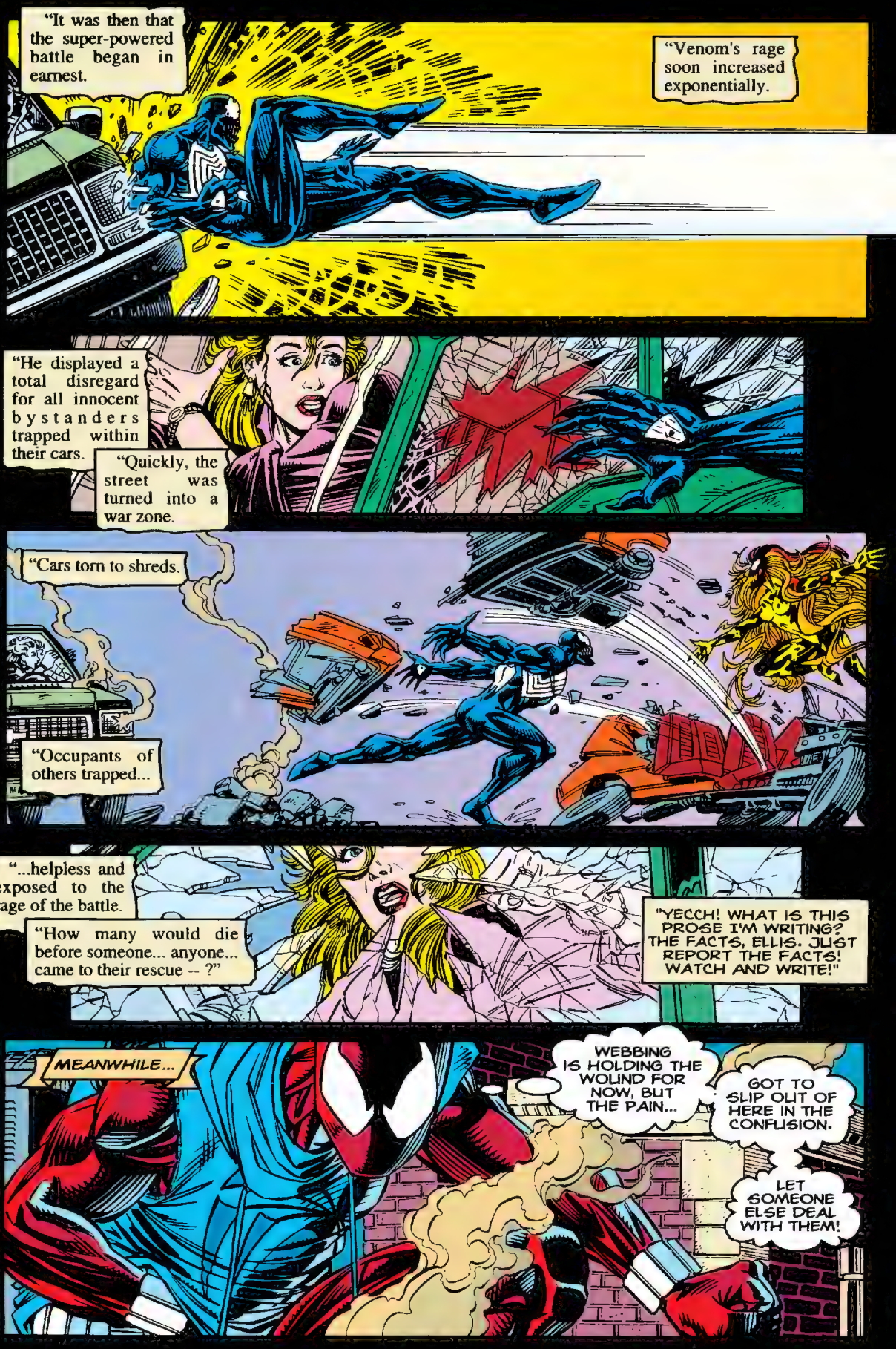
BAD MOVE!
HE'S GOT HOLD OF MY LEG --
-- WE'RE BOTH GOING DOWN!
THWIP
DID IT!
THANKS FOR BREAKING OUR FALL, PAL!
NOW WE HOPE YOU WON'T MIND IF WE RETURN THE FAVOR AND...
...BREAK YOUR SPINE!
HE'S FASTER THAN I THOUGHT! AND TWICE AS INSANE!
I SHOULD HAVE LEFT THIS TO SOMEONE WHO COULD HANDLE IT!


YOU MOVE LIKE HIM, BUT...
...YOU CAN'T BE THE REAL SPIDER-MAN!
HE HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH US!
HE WOULD LEAVE US ALONE, AND WE...
...WOULDN'T EAT HIS BRAINS!
BUT YOU'RE A FAKE!
WE DON'T LIKE FAKES!
SHRAKK
WITH A SPEED THAT EQUALS REILLY'S OWN--VENOM STRIKES BACK!

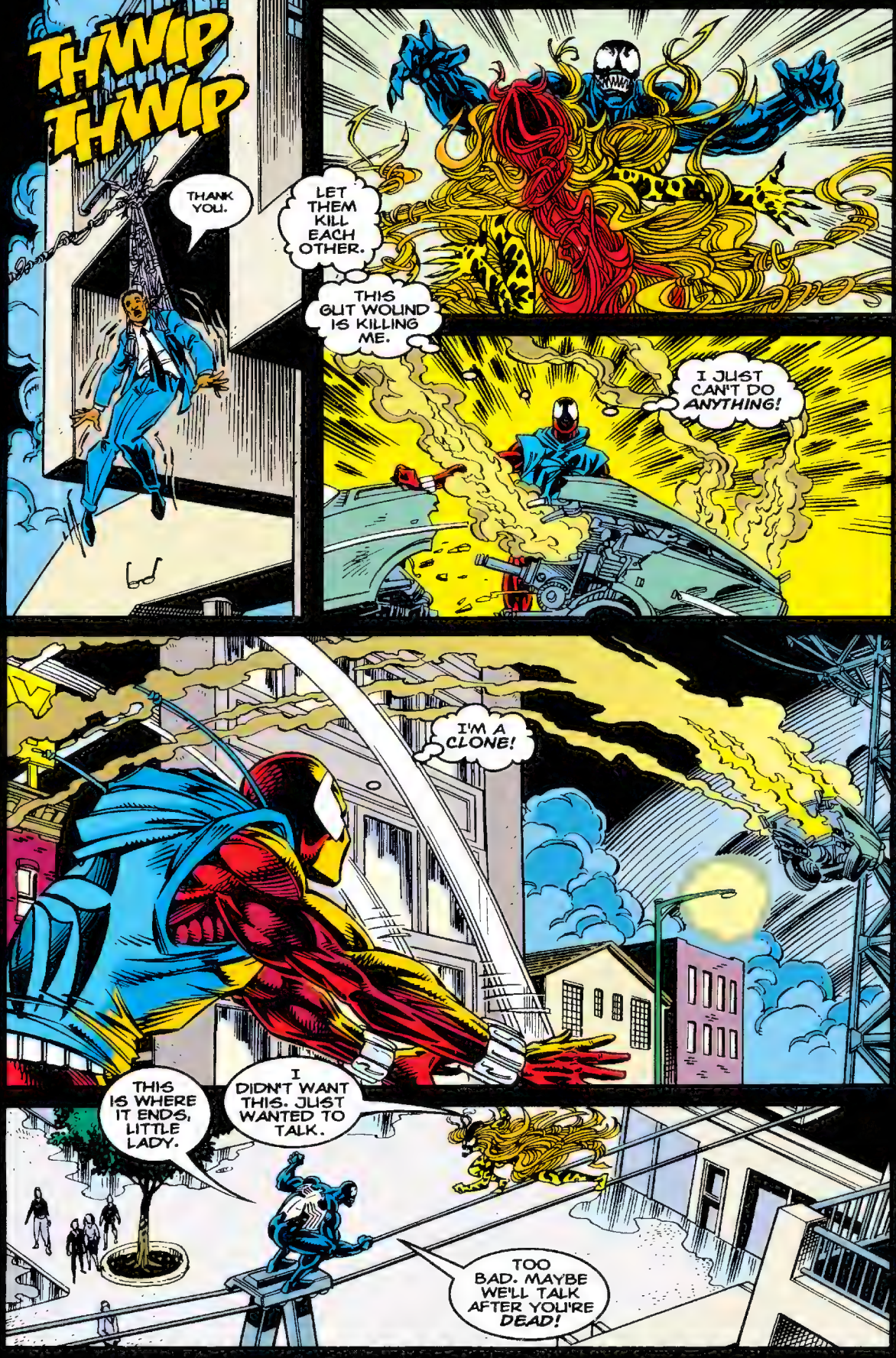

YES...
...I AM... A FAKE.
THEN...
...TIME TO DIE, BUNKY!
YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, VENOM! NOW!
WHO?

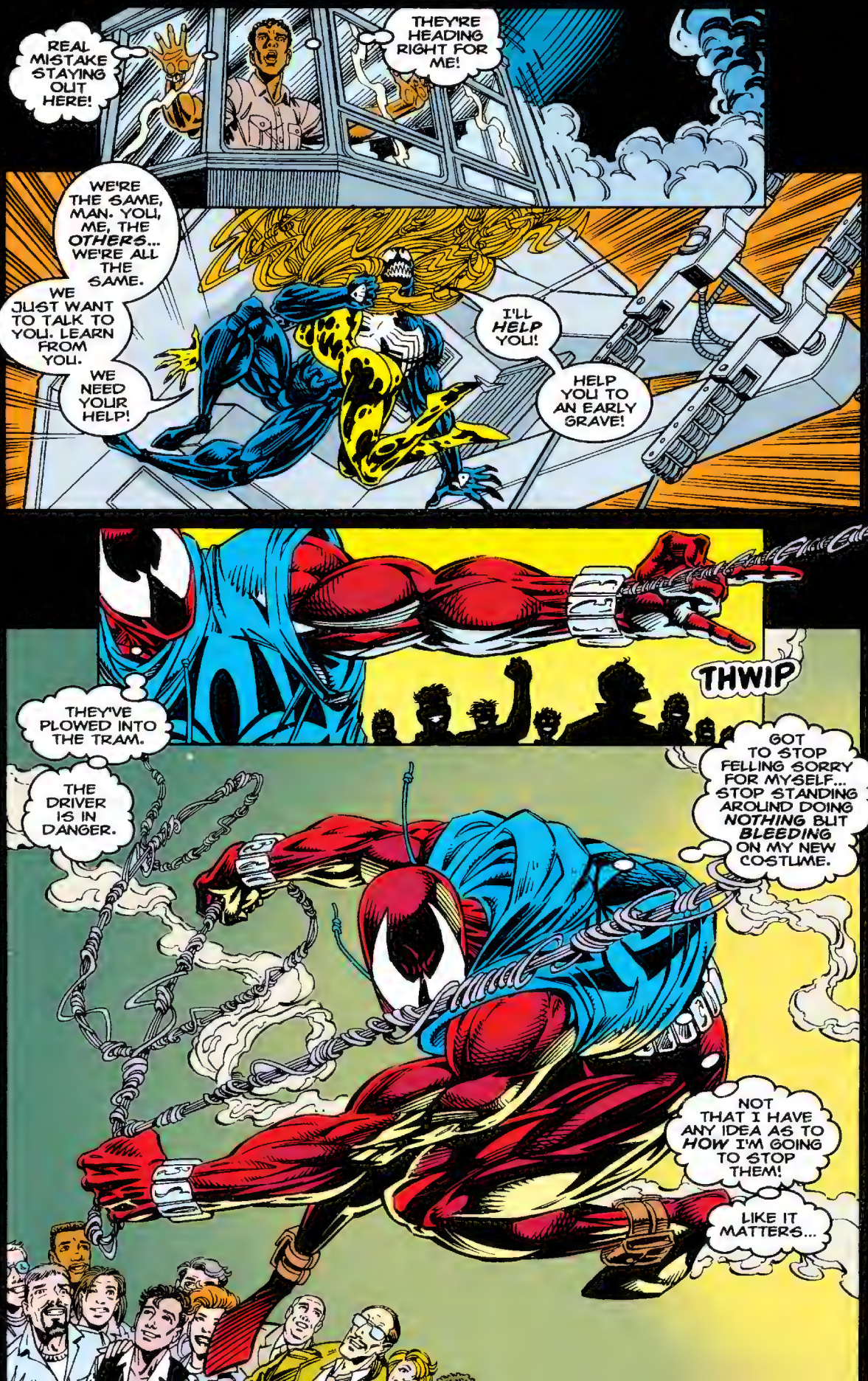
THE POLICE KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT YOU...US... THEY'LL HAVE GUARDSMEN HERE IN NO TIME!
COME, I'LL HELP YOU ESCAPE FROM HERE.
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE SYMBIOTIC SPAWN OF MY OTHER -- CREATED BY THE LIFE FOUNDATION TO KILL ME!
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!*
WE NEED TO TALK!
*SEE VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #3. --DANNY
NO! NO TALK!
ALL SPAWN MUST DIE!
LIKE CARNAGE, YOU ARE ALL EVIL...KILL INNOCENTS!
I MUST DESTROY YOU ALL!
THIS WOUND IS BAD...LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD.
AND NOW THERE ARE TWO OF THEM.
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE.

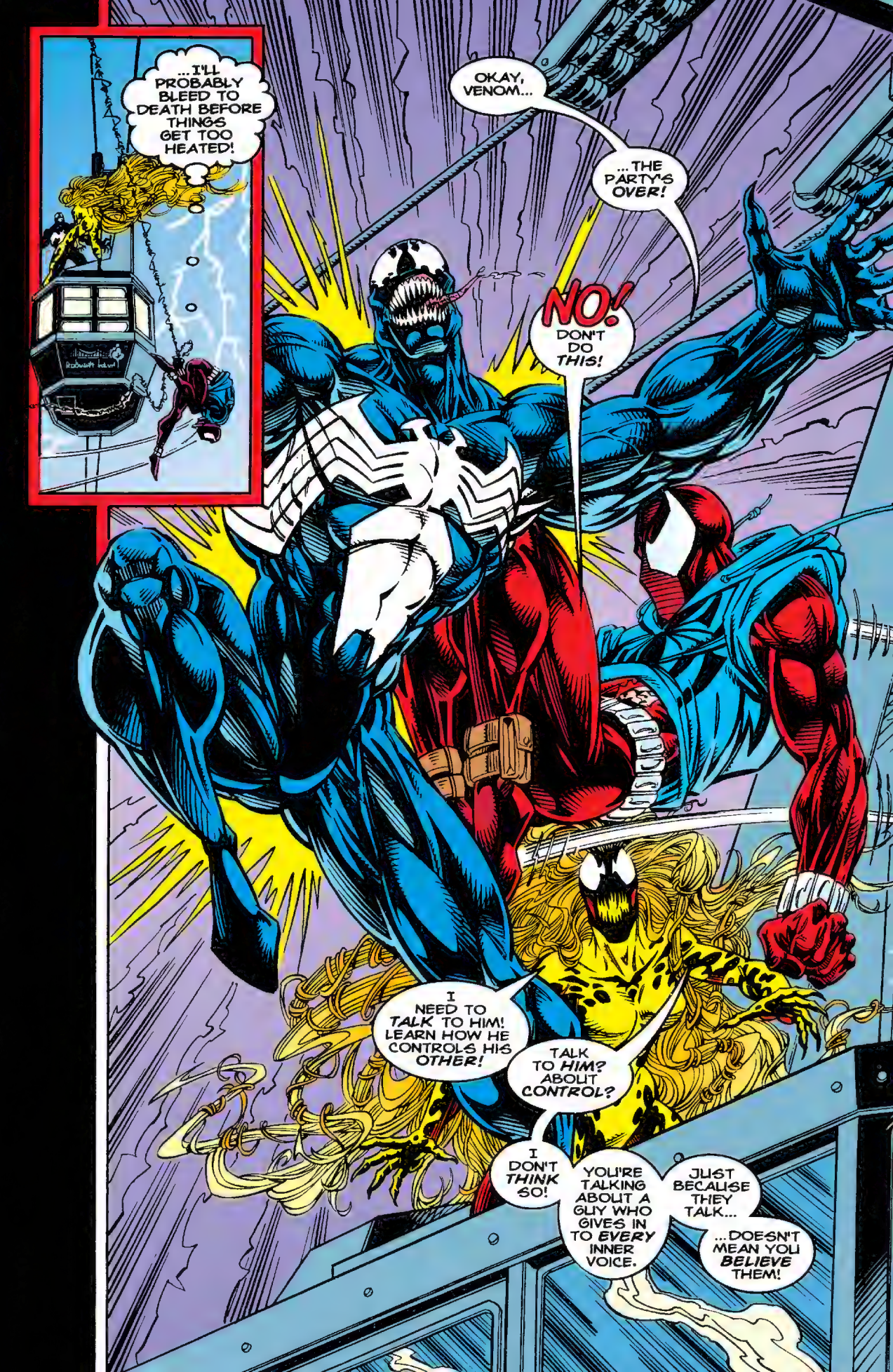
MEANWHILE...
THIS IS IT.
ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE FIGHT.
NOT SO CLOSE THAT I GET MY HEAD RIPPED OFF, BUT JUST CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE THERE WHEN IT'S OVER.
ONE OF THEM HAS TO SURVIVE.
AND THAT'S THE ONE I WANT TO INTERVIEW.
MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT TO TAKE NOTES. FILE THE STORY. THIS IS A START.
GEEZ! CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T BRING A CAMERA!
"The costumed criminal known as Venom appeared to have met his match in the female, who bore more than a passing resemblance to him.

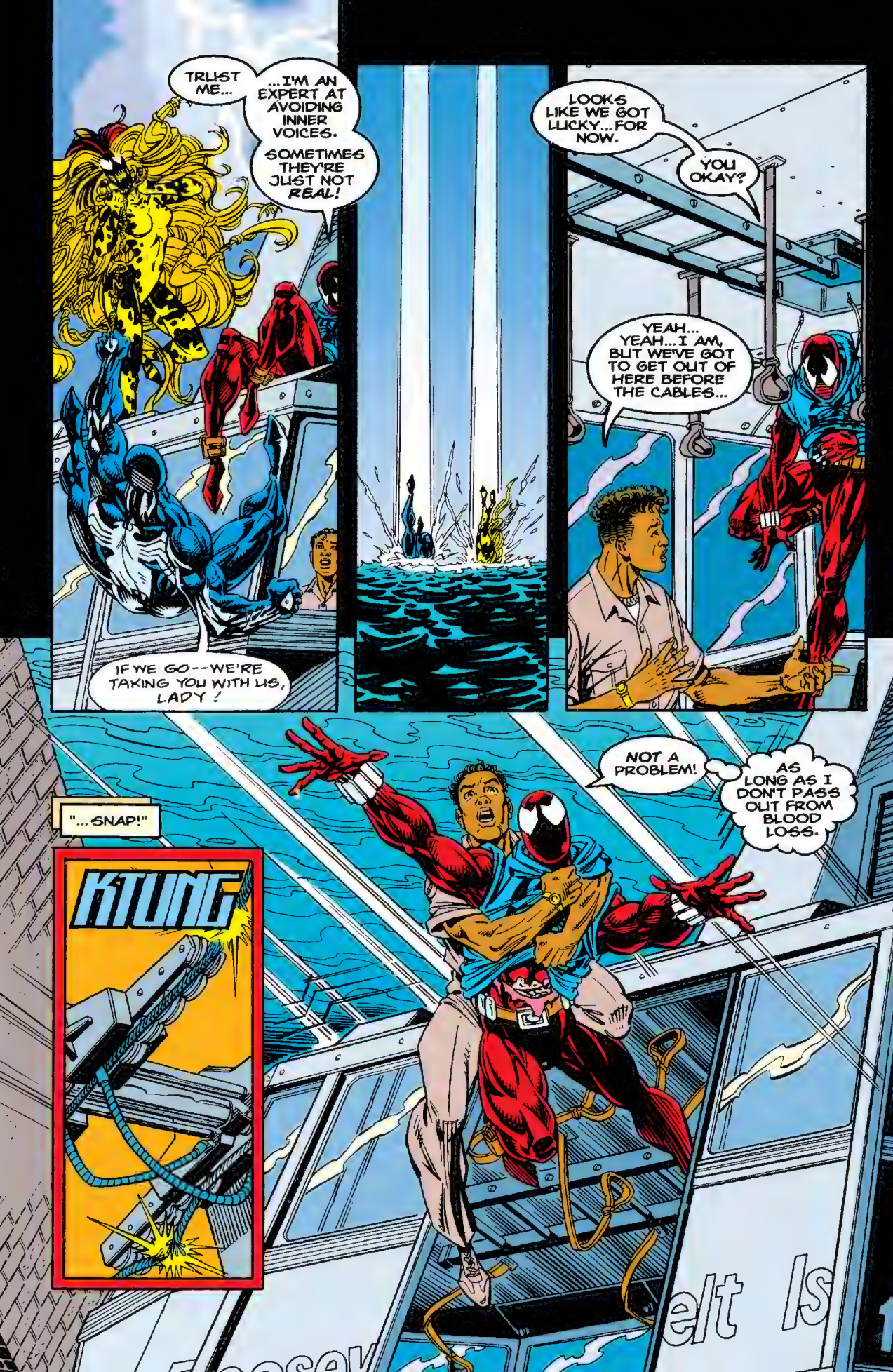

"It was then that the super-powered battle began in earnest.
"Venom's rage soon increased exponentially.
"He displayed a total disregard for all innocent bystanders trapped within their cars.
"Quickly, the street was turned into a war zone.
"Cars torn to shreds.
"Occupants of others trapped...
"...helpless and exposed to the rage of the battle.
"How many would die before someone... anyone... came to their rescue -- ?"
"YECCH! WHAT IS THIS PROSE I'M WRITING? THE FACTS, ELLIS. JUST REPORT THE FACTS! WATCH AND WRITE!"
MEANWHILE...
WEBBING IS HOLDING THE WOUND FOR NOW, BUT THE PAIN...
GOT TO SLIP OUT OF HERE IN THE CONFUSION.
LET SOMEONE ELSE DEAL WITH THEM!

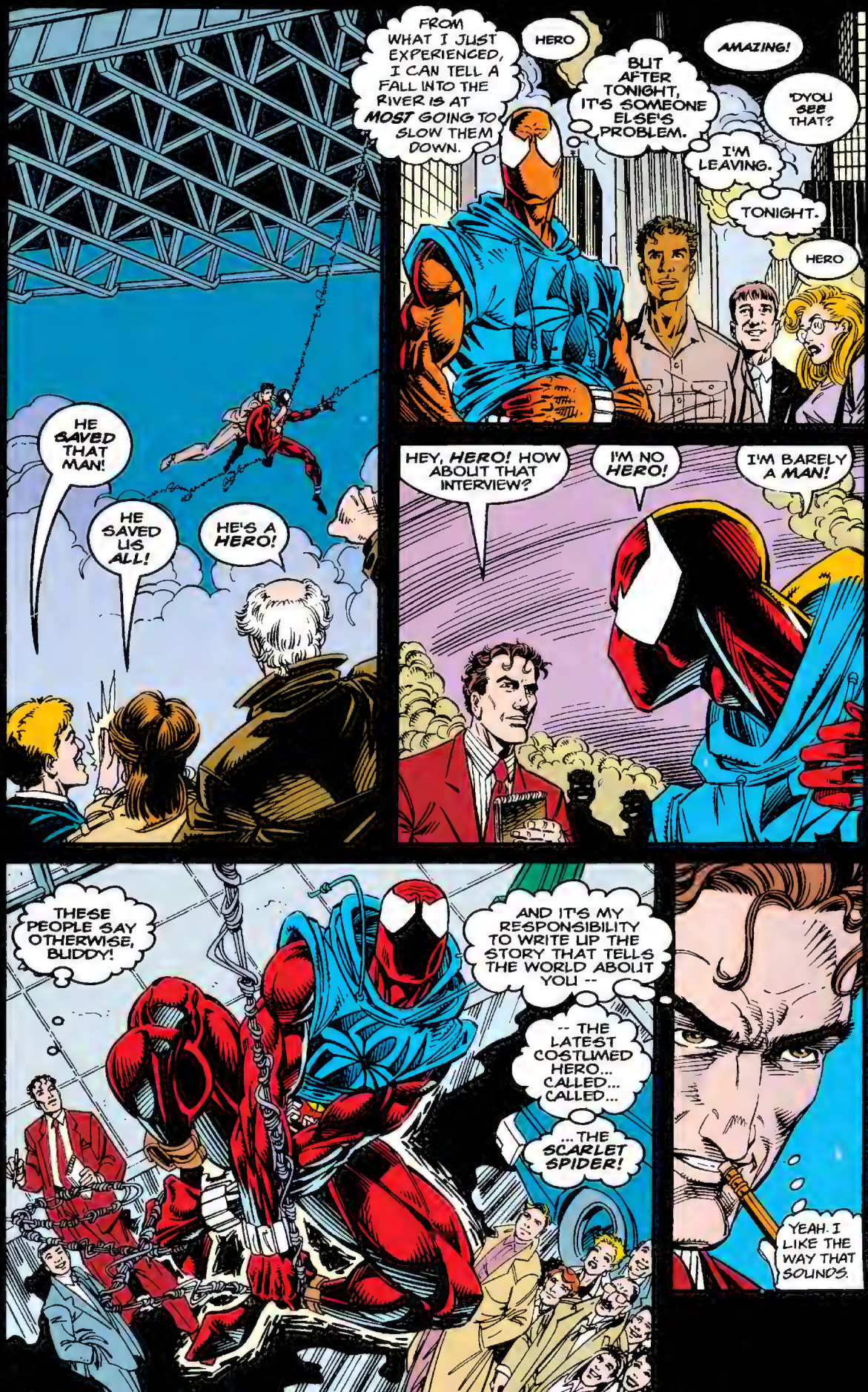
ANYONE ELSE.
I'M USELESS HERE.
THANK YOU.
CAN'T CUT IT.
THE MEMORIES I HAVE... SPIDER-MAN'S MEMORIES...
...JUST AREN'T ENOUGH TO TURN ME... AN IMPOSTOR... INTO SOMETHING I'M NOT...
...A HERO!
NO... NO... I'M FALL--

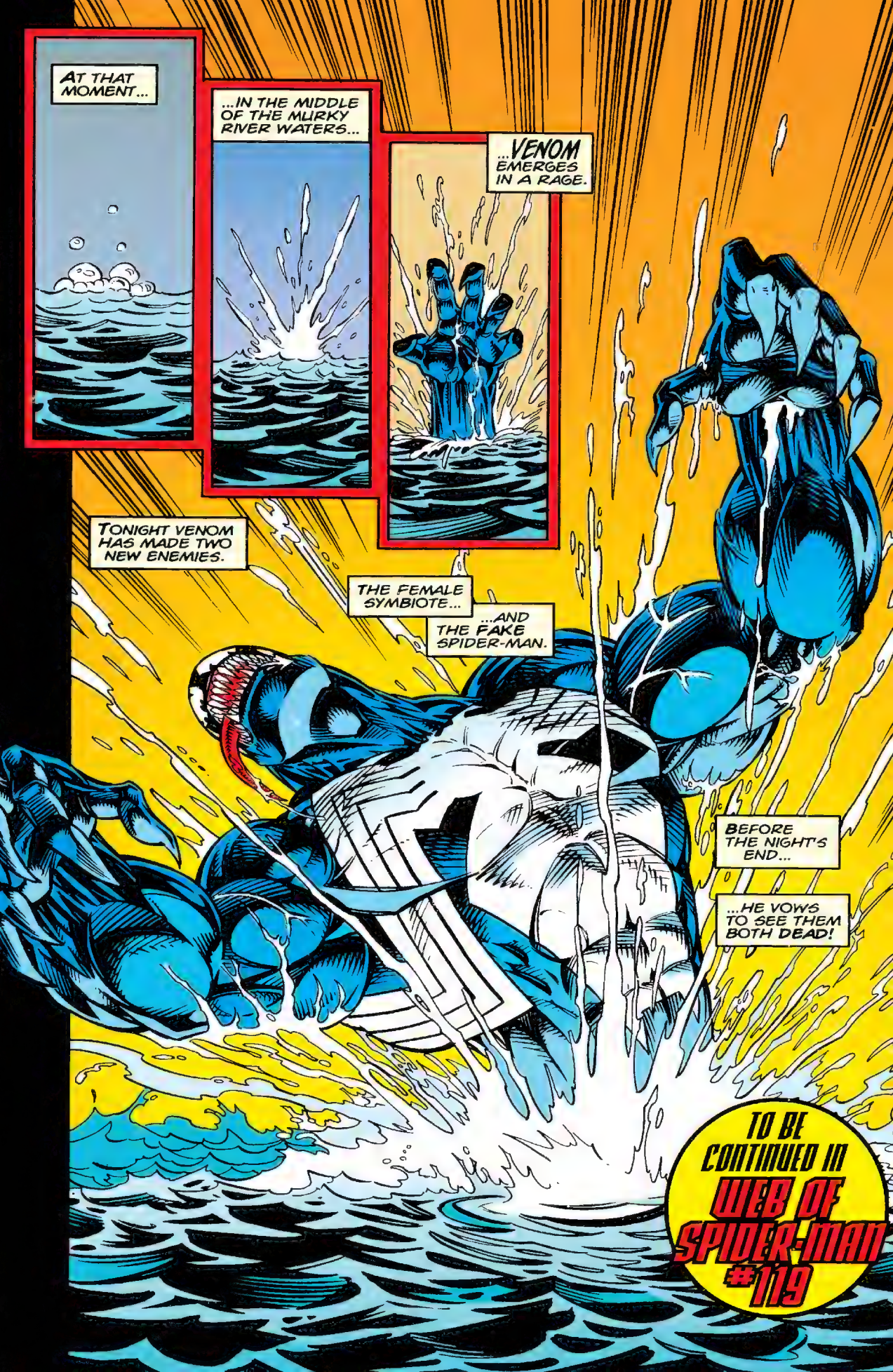

THWIP THWIP
THANK YOU.
LET THEM KILL EACH OTHER.
THIS GUT WOUND IS KILLING ME.
I JUST CAN'T DO ANYTHING!
I'M A CLONE!
THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS, LITTLE LADY.
I DIDN'T WANT THIS. JUST WANTED TO TALK.
TOO BAD. MAYBE WE'LL TALK AFTER YOU'RE DEAD!


REAL MISTAKE STAYING OUT HERE!
THEY'RE HEADING RIGHT FOR ME!
WE'RE THE SAME, MAN. YOU, ME, THE OTHERS... WE'RE ALL THE SAME.
WE JUST WANT TO TALK TO YOU. LEARN FROM YOU.
WE NEED YOUR HELP!
I'LL HELP YOU!
HELP YOU TO AN EARLY GRAVE!
THWIP
THEY'VE PLOWED INTO THE TRAM.
THE DRIVER IS IN DANGER.
GOT TO STOP FELLING SORRY FOR MYSELF... STOP STANDING AROUND DOING NOTHING BUT BLEEDING ON MY NEW COSTUME.
NOT THAT I HAVE ANY IDEA AS TO HOW I'M GOING TO STOP THEM!
LIKE IT MATTERS...


...I'LL PROBABLY BLEED TO DEATH BEFORE THINGS GET TOO HEATED!
OKAY, VENOM...
...THE PARTY'S OVER!
NO! DON'T DO THIS!
I NEED TO TALK TO HIM! LEARN HOW HE CONTROLS HIS OTHER!
TALK TO HIM? ABOUT CONTROL?
I DON'T THINK SO!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A GUY WHO GIVES IN TO EVERY INNER VOICE.
JUST BECAUSE THEY TALK...
...DOESN'T MEAN YOU BELIEVE THEM!


TRUST ME...
...I'M AN EXPERT AT AVOIDING INNER VOICES.
SOMETIMES THEY'RE JUST NOT REAL!
IF WE GO--WE'RE TAKING YOU WITH US, LADY!
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT LLICKY...FOR NOW.
YOU OKAY?
YEAH... YEAH...I AM, BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE CABLES...
NOT A PROBLEM!
AS LONG AS I DON'T PASS OUT FROM BLOOD LOSS.
"...SNAP!"
KTUNG


FROM WHAT I JUST EXPERIENCED, I CAN TELL A FALL INTO THE RIVER IS AT MOST GOING TO SLOW THEM DOWN.
HERO
BUT AFTER TONIGHT, IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM.
AMAZING!
D'YOU SEE THAT?
I'M LEAVING.
TONIGHT.
HERO
HE SAVED THAT MAN!
HE SAVED US ALL!
HE'S A HERO!
HEY, HERO! HOW ABOUT THAT INTERVIEW?
I'M NO HERO!
I'M BARELY A MAN!
THESE PEOPLE SAY OTHERWISE, BUDDY!
AND IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO WRITE UP THE STORY THAT TELLS THE WORLD ABOUT YOU --
-- THE LATEST COSTUMED HERO... CALLED... CALLED...
... THE SCARLET SPIDER!
YEAH. I LIKE THE WAY THAT SOUNDS.


AT THAT MOMENT...
...IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MURKY RIVER WATERS...
...VENOM EMERGES IN A RAGE.
TONIGHT VENOM HAS MADE TWO NEW ENEMIES.
THE FEMALE SYMBIOTE...
...AND THE FAKE SPIDER-MAN.
BEFORE THE NIGHT'S END...
...HE VOWS TO SEE THEM BOTH DEAD!
TO BE CONTINUED IN WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #119

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THE SCARLET SPIDER!
VENOM!
NEED WE SAY MORE?
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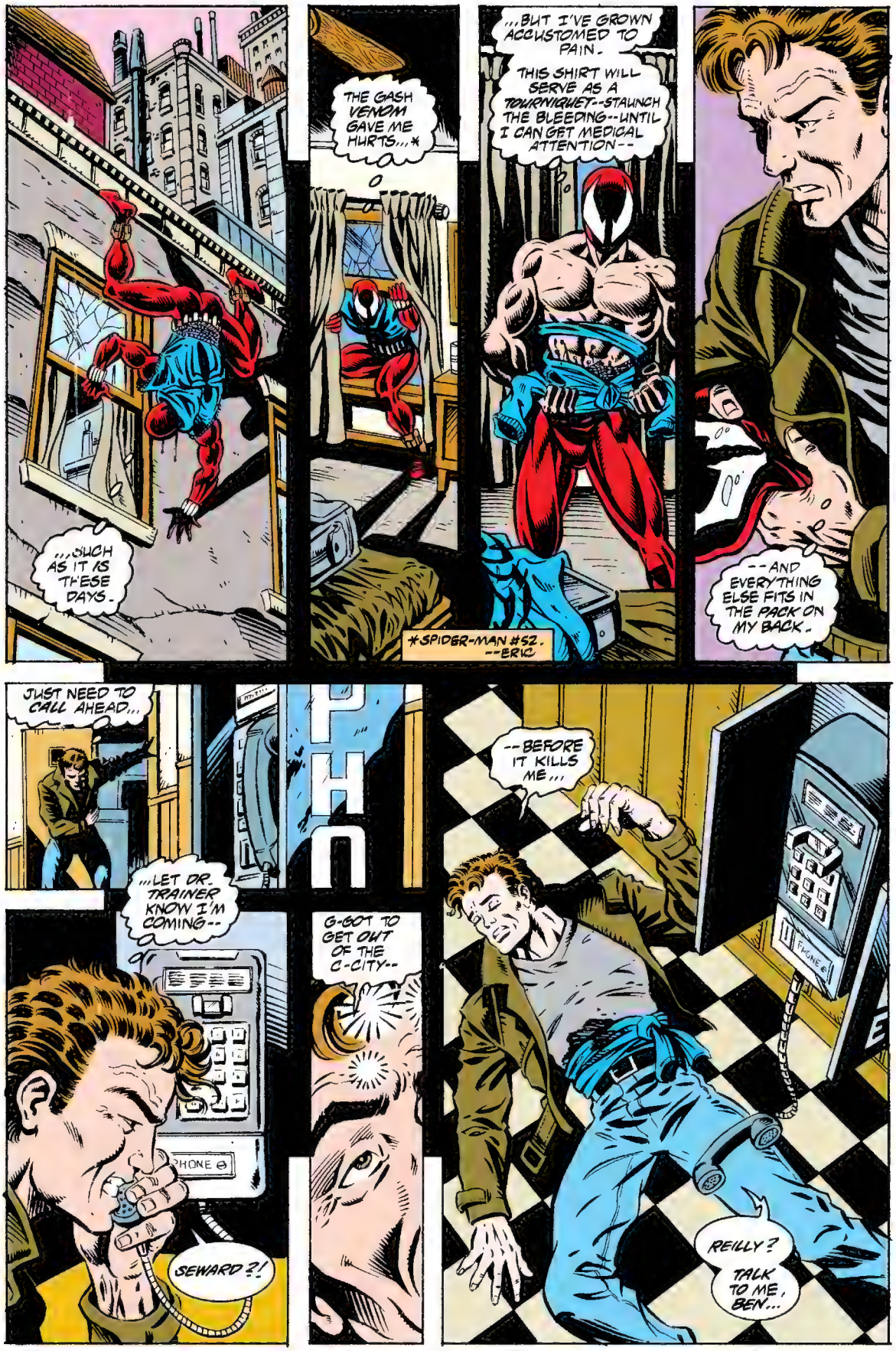
THE EXILE RETURNS PART 3 OF 4
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE..
A NEW MYSTERY MAN ENTERS THE SPIDERVERSE!
WHO IS KAINE?
AND WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH SPIDER-MAN AND BEN REILLY?

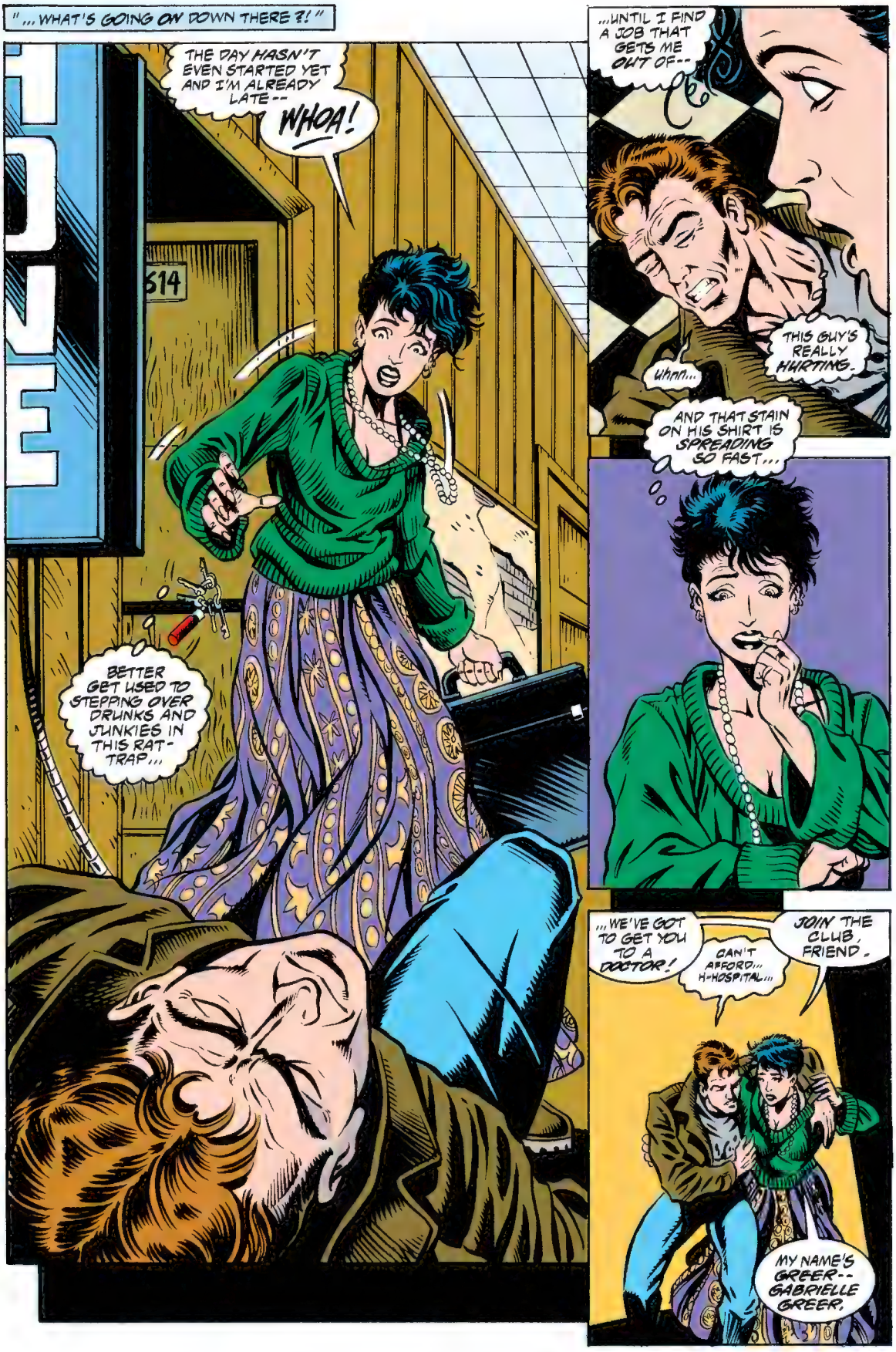
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

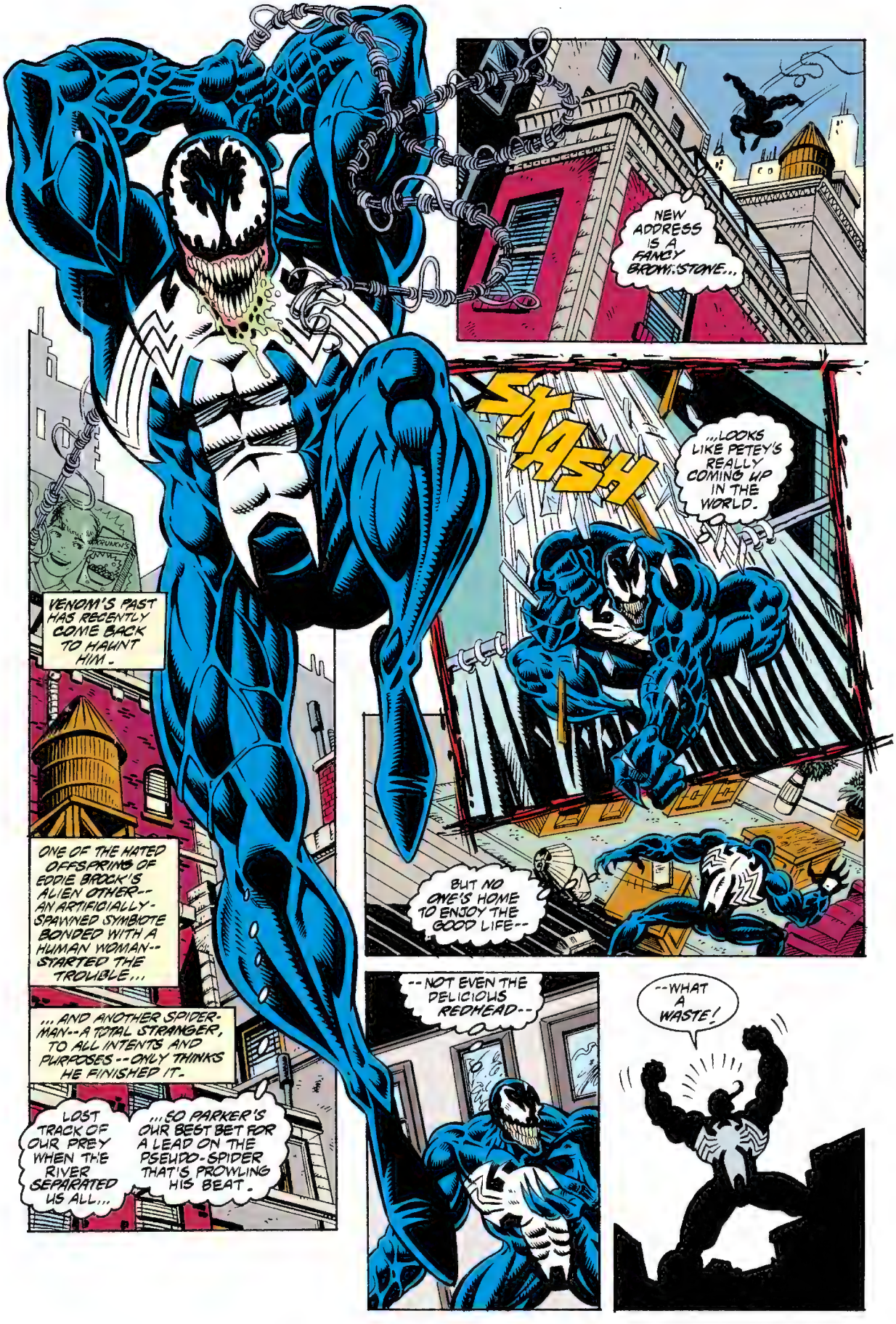
Stan Lee PRESENTS: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™

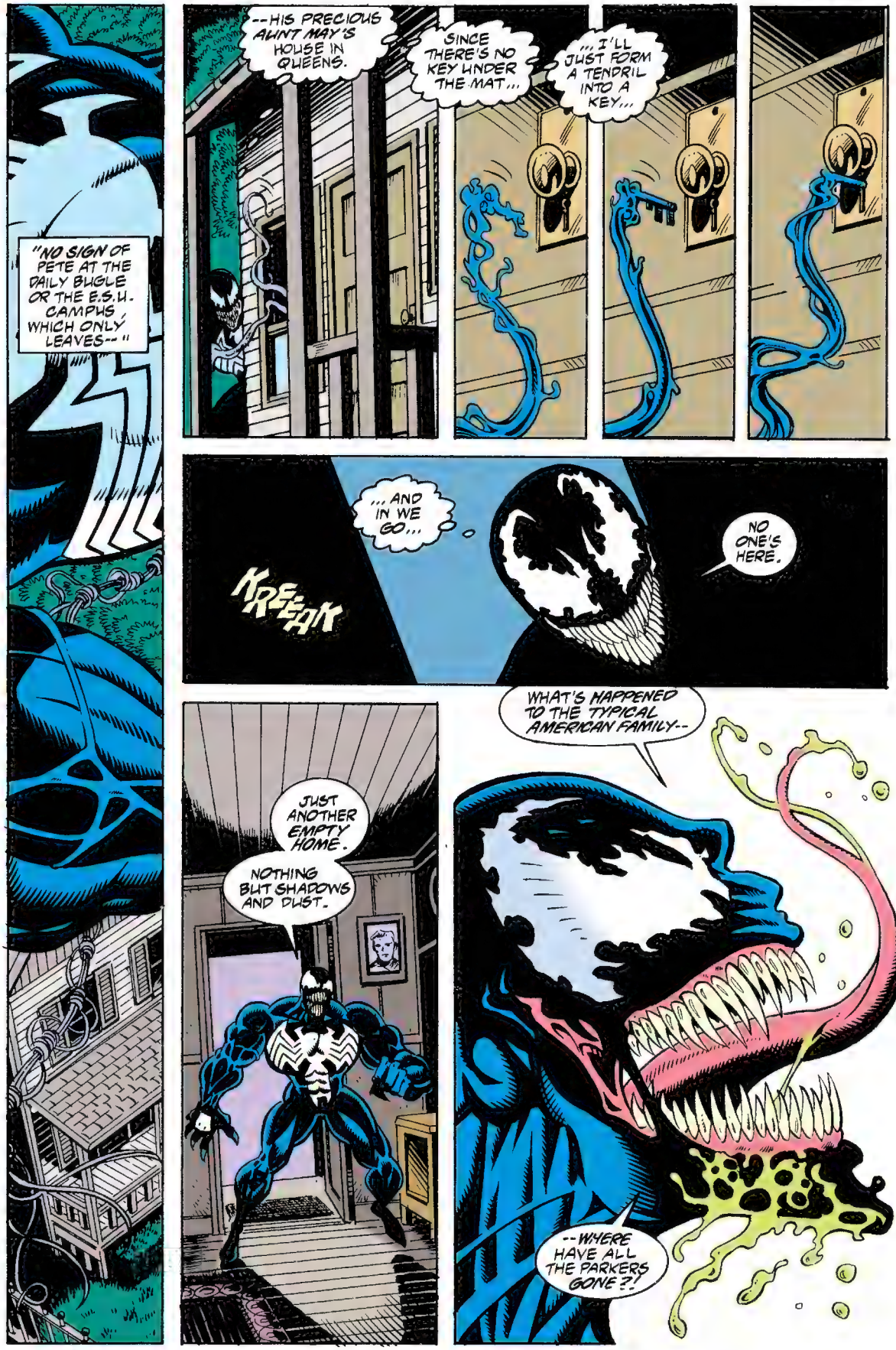
BEN REILLY'S RETURN TO NEW YORK WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END.
THE IMPOSSIBLE SECRET BURIED SO DEEP, FOR SO LONG--HIS IDENTITY AS THE CLONE OF PETER PARKER, THE TRUE SPIDER-MAN--
--BUBBLES FAR TOO CLOSE TO THE SURFACE HERE.
BETWEEN THE CITY'S NEED FOR HEROES AND HIS INSTINCT FOR HEROICS, THE SCARLET SPIDER WAS BORN ON THESE ROOFTOPS...*
...AND THEY MAY JUST PROVE TO BE THE DEATH OF HIM.
THIS TOWN'S TEARING ME APART.
WEB-BANDAGE IS DISSOLVING ALREADY, BUT IT GOT ME HOME...
THE EXILE RETURNS
PART 3
ECHOES OF SILENCE
*WEB #118. --ERIC

TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER	STEVEN BUTLER BREAKDOWNS	RANDY EMBERLIN FINISHES	STEVE DUTRO LETTERS	KEVIN TINSLEY COLORS	ERIC FEIN EDITOR	DANNY FINGEROTH GROUP EDITOR	TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

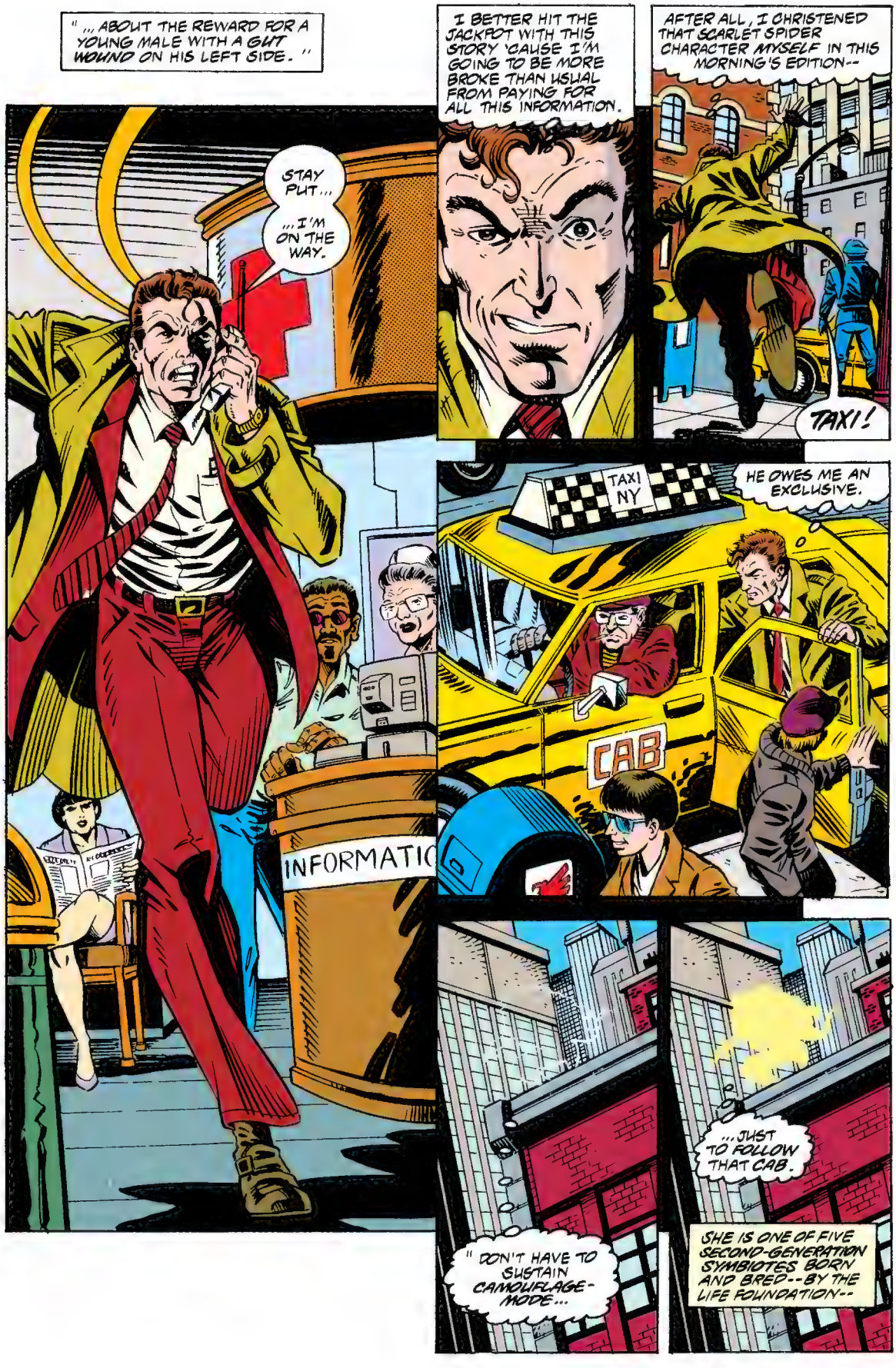

,,,SUCH AS IT IS THESE DAYS-
THE GASH VENOM GAVE ME HURTS,,,*
,,,BUT I'VE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO PAIN-
THIS SHIRT WILL SERVE AS A TOURNIQUET--STAUNCH THE BLEEDING--UNTIL I CAN GET MEDICAL ATTENTION--
--AND EVERYTHING ELSE FITS IN THE PACK ON MY BACK-
*SPIDER-MAN #52. --ERIC
JUST NEED TO CALL AHEAD,,,
,,,LET DR. TRAINER KNOW I'M COMING--
PHONE
SEWARD?!
G-GOT TO GET OUT OF THE C-CITY--
--BEFORE IT KILLS ME,,,
REILLY? TALK TO ME, BEN...


"...WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?!"
THE DAY HASN'T EVEN STARTED YET AND I'M ALREADY LATE--
WHOA!
614
BETTER GET USED TO STEPPING OVER DRUNKS AND JUNKIES IN THIS RAT-TRAP...
...UNTIL I FIND A JOB THAT GETS ME OUT OF--
Uhnn...
THIS GUY'S REALLY HURTING.
AND THAT STAIN ON HIS SHIRT IS SPREADING SO FAST...
...WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU TO A DOCTOR!
CAN'T AFFORD... H-HOSPITAL...
JOIN THE CLUB, FRIEND.
MY NAME'S GREER--GABRIELLE GREER.


NEW ADDRESS IS A FANCY BROWNSTONE...
SMASH
...LOOKS LIKE PETEY'S REALLY COMING UP IN THE WORLD.
BUT NO ONE'S HOME TO ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE--
VENOM'S PAST HAS RECENTLY COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM.
ONE OF THE HATED OFFSPRING OF EDDIE BROCK'S ALIEN OTHER--AN ARTIFICIALLY-SPAWNED SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH A HUMAN WOMAN--STARTED THE TROUBLE...
...AND ANOTHER SPIDER-MAN--A TOTAL STRANGER, TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES--ONLY THINKS HE FINISHED IT.
LOST TRACK OF OUR PREY WHEN THE RIVER SEPARATED US ALL...
...SO PARKER'S OUR BEST BET FOR A LEAD ON THE PSEUDO-SPIDER THAT'S PROWLING HIS BEAT.
--NOT EVEN THE DELICIOUS REDHEAD--
--WHAT A WASTE!

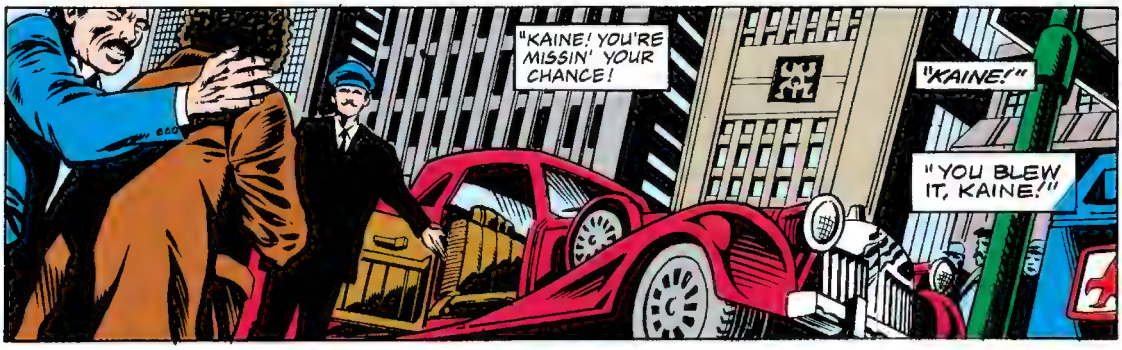

"NO SIGN OF PETE AT THE DAILY BUGLE OR THE E.S.U. CAMPUS, WHICH ONLY LEAVES--"
--HIS PRECIOUS AUNT MAY'S HOUSE IN QUEENS.
SINCE THERE'S NO KEY UNDER THE MAT...
...I'LL JUST FORM A TENDRIL INTO A KEY...
...AND IN WE GO...
KREEAK
NO ONE'S HERE.
JUST ANOTHER EMPTY HOME.
NOTHING BUT SHADOWS AND DUST.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE TYPICAL AMERICAN FAMILY--
--WHERE HAVE ALL THE PARKERS GONE?!

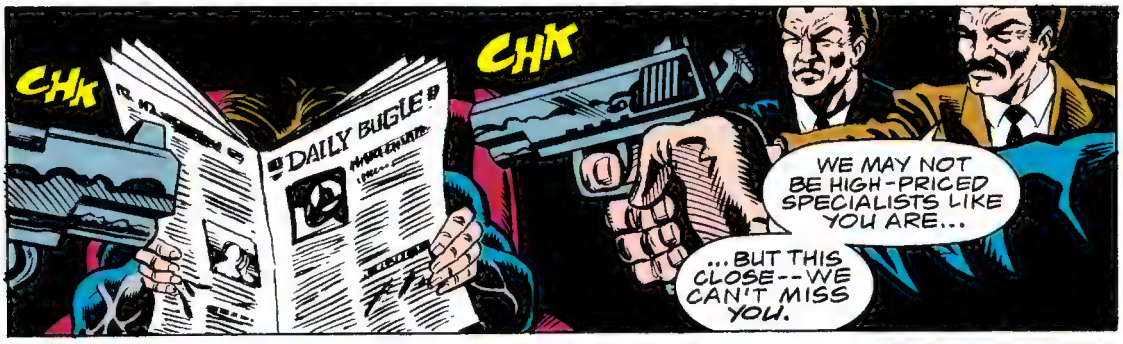
"THIS IS THE ONLY CLINIC IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WOULD TREAT YOU WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE, BEN..."
NO ANESTHESIA... GREER...
...YOU'VE GOT TO TRUST THE DOCTOR.
FOUR MORE STITCHES TO GO, SON.
CLINIC
124 SAINT
WHATEVER IT TAKES, DOC...
...TO GET ME OUT OF HERE...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...
IS THIS KEN ELLIS?
THE BUGLE FORWARDED MY CALL TO YOU...


"... ABOUT THE REWARD FOR A YOUNG MALE WITH A GUT WOUND ON HIS LEFT SIDE."
STAY PUT...
...I'M ON THE WAY.
INFORMATIC
I BETTER HIT THE JACKPOT WITH THIS STORY 'CAUSE I'M GOING TO BE MORE BROKE THAN USUAL FROM PAYING FOR ALL THIS INFORMATION.
AFTER ALL, I CHRISTENED THAT SCARLET SPIDER CHARACTER MYSELF IN THIS MORNING'S EDITION--
TAXI!
TAXI NY
CAB
HE OWES ME AN EXCLUSIVE.
"DON'T HAVE TO SUSTAIN CAMOUFLAGE-MODE...
...JUST TO FOLLOW THAT CAB.
SHE IS ONE OF FIVE SECOND-GENERATION SYMBIOTES BORN AND BRED--BY THE LIFE FOUNDATION--

--TO KILL.
SHE FEARS IT'S A LOSING BATTLE...
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A BLESSING OR A CURSE MY SYMBIOTE REGEN-ERATED...!*
*AFTER VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #6.--Eric
GETS MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL MY OTHER--TO IGNORE ITS WHISPERED OFFERS AND SEDUCTIVE CARESSES--WITH EVERY HOUR.
VENOM ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE.
BUT I STILL CAN'T HELP BELIEVING--
ALTHOUGH FREE OF THE CORPORATE SURVIVALIST GROUP FOR MONTHS ALREADY...
...THE WOMAN BENEATH THE LIVING COSTUME IS ALL BUT NAMELESS NOW, BARELY STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN SOME SENSE OF SELF.
--HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP ME...
...AND SAVE MY SOUL.
"AND ELLIS' INVESTIGATION IS BOUND TO POINT STRAIGHT TO THE SPIDER!
WHICH IN TURN, WILL BRING ME BACK INTO CONTACT WITH VENOM.

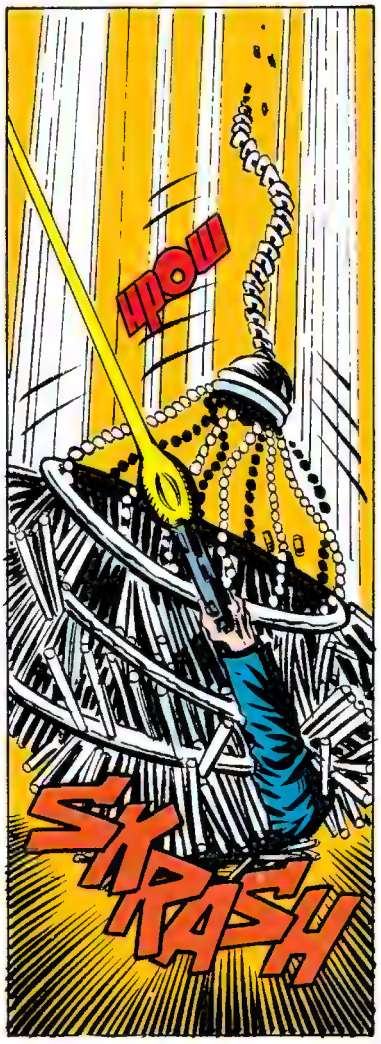
MIDTOWN.
PAPA GRANITE'S ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN BRANCHING OUT INTO NEW TERRITORY LATELY--OUR TERRITORY--
--CROSSING BOUNDARIES MARKED BY BLOOD.
MY PEOPLE WANT HIS PEOPLE OUT OF THE WAY, ASSASSIN...
"...BUT GRANITE HIMSELF ONLY LEAVES HIS JERSEY FORTRESS ONCE A YEAR FOR THIS ANNIVERSARY NIGHT OUT WITH THE OLD LADY.
"THEY RESERVE THE PLACE FOR THEMSELVES. PACK IT WITH BODYGUARDS. SIT BEHIND THE BULLETPROOF GLASS.
"WE NEED A SPECIALIST TO GET CLOSE TO HIM.
"WORD HAS REACHED US THAT YOU ARE SUCH A SPECIALIST, KAINE.
"ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK FOR US AND YOU MAY HAVE A FUTURE WITH OUR FAMILY.
"IT'S TIME TO MAKE YOUR MOVE.
YOU LISTENING TO ME, KAINE?
DAILY BUGLE
PUT DOWN THE PAPER AND DO YOUR JOB, FREAK!


"KAINE! YOU'RE MISSIN' YOUR CHANCE!
"KAINE!"
"YOU BLEW IT, KAINE!"

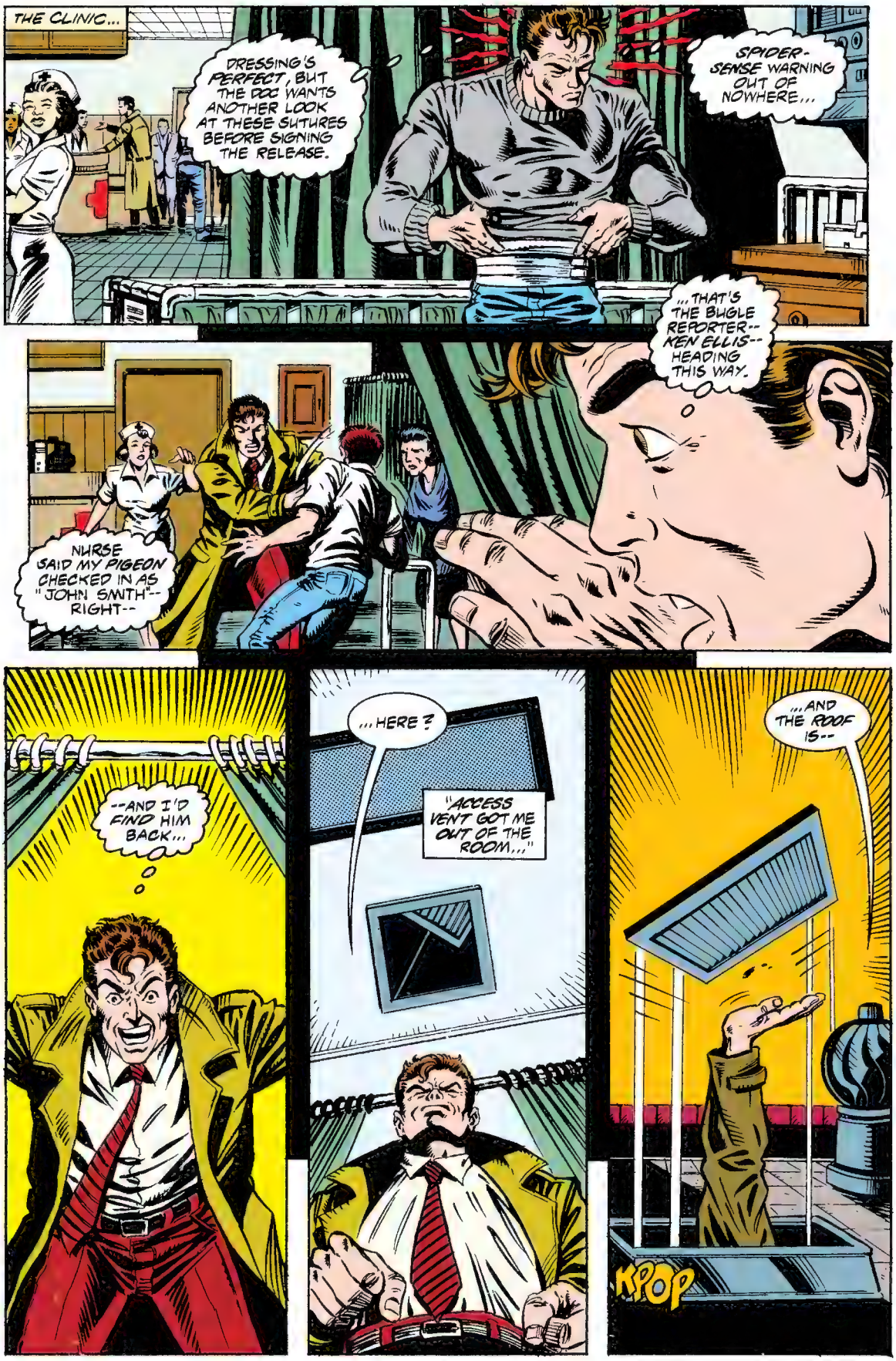

CHK
CHK
DAILY BUGLE
WE MAY NOT BE HIGH-PRICED SPECIALISTS LIKE YOU ARE...
...BUT THIS CLOSE--WE CAN'T MISS YOU.

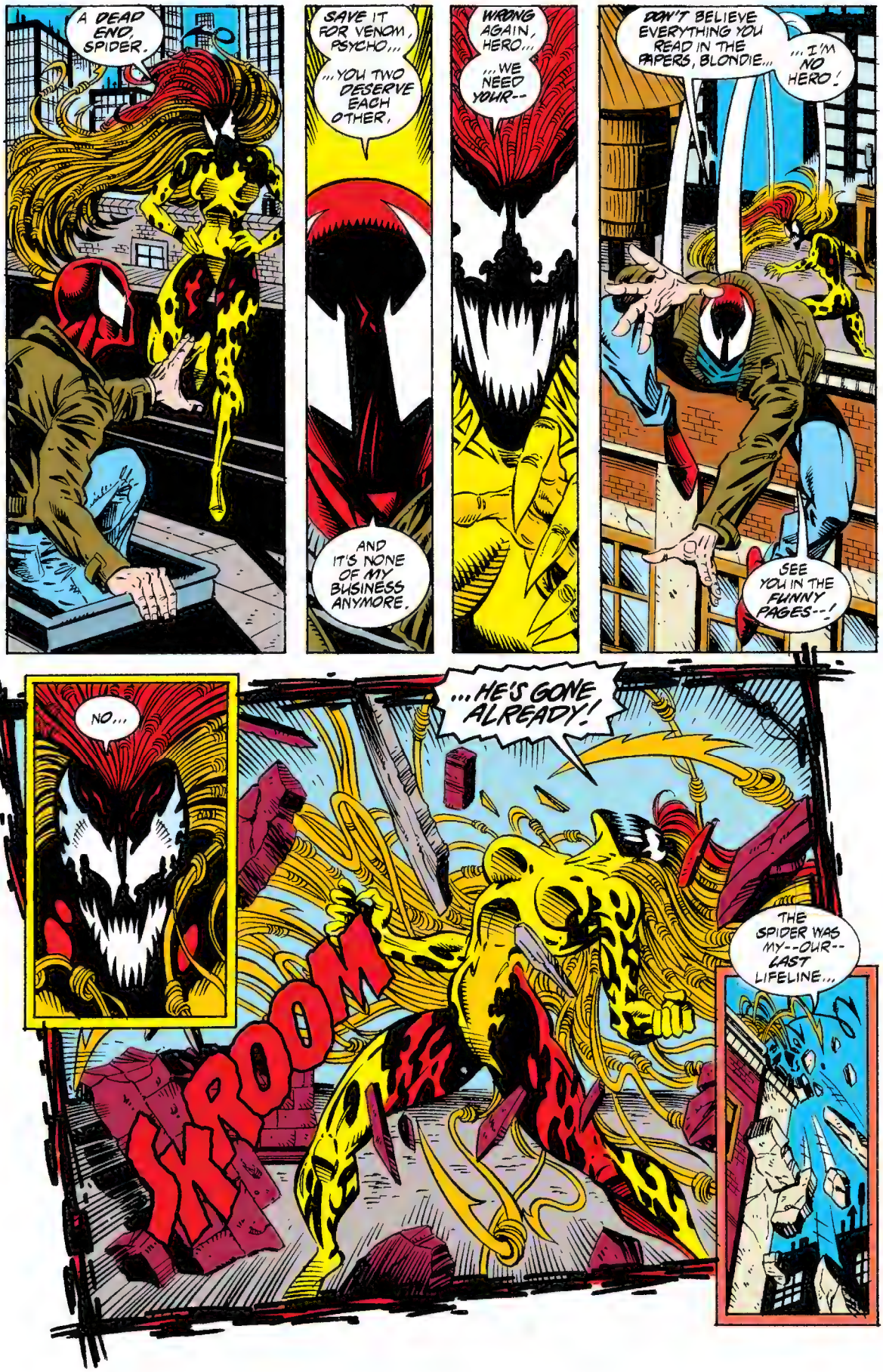
SPIDER
JER-MAN?
BY KEN ELLIS
UNFORTUNATELY, GENTLEMEN...

SHK

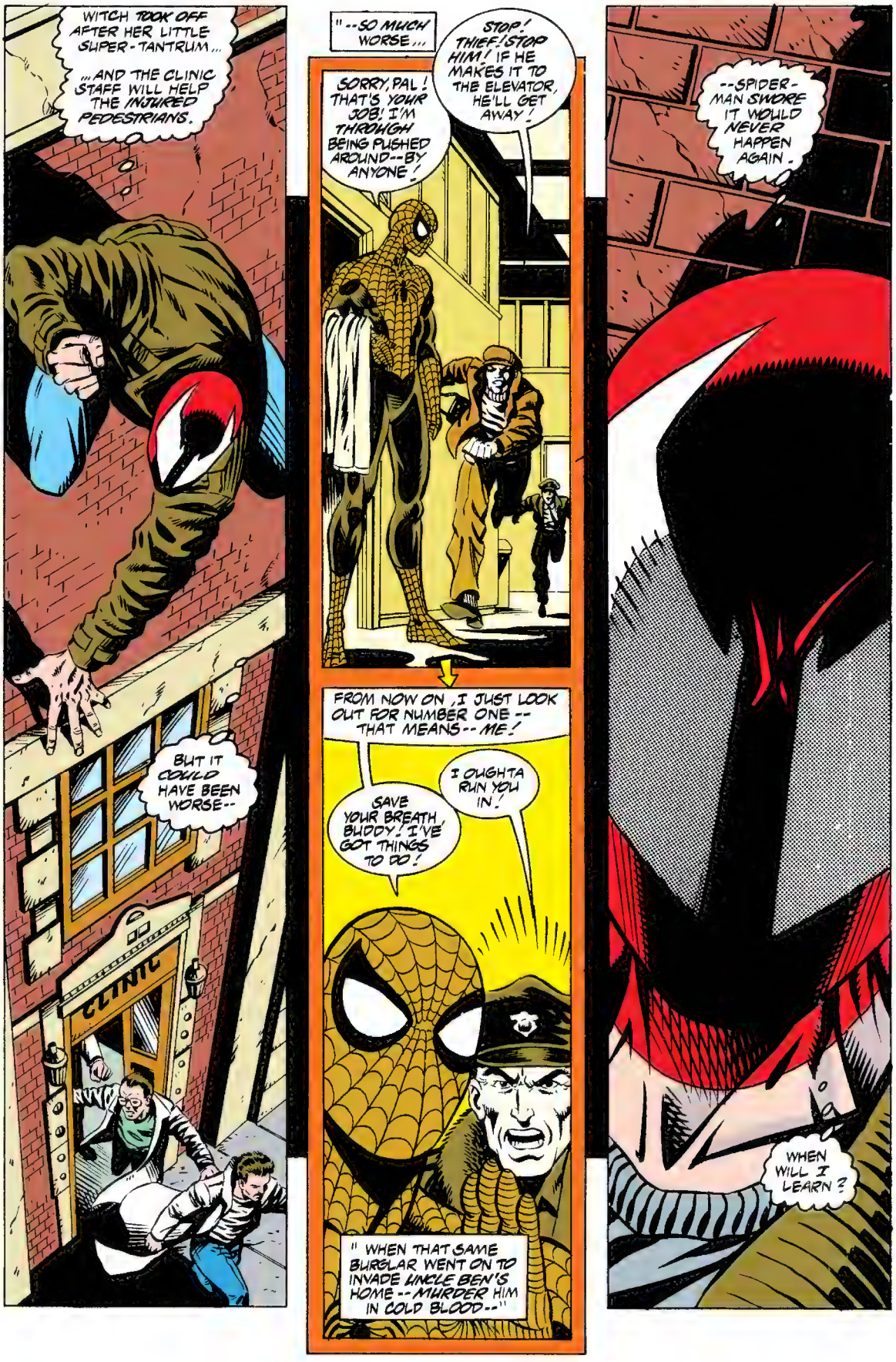

WOW
SKRASH

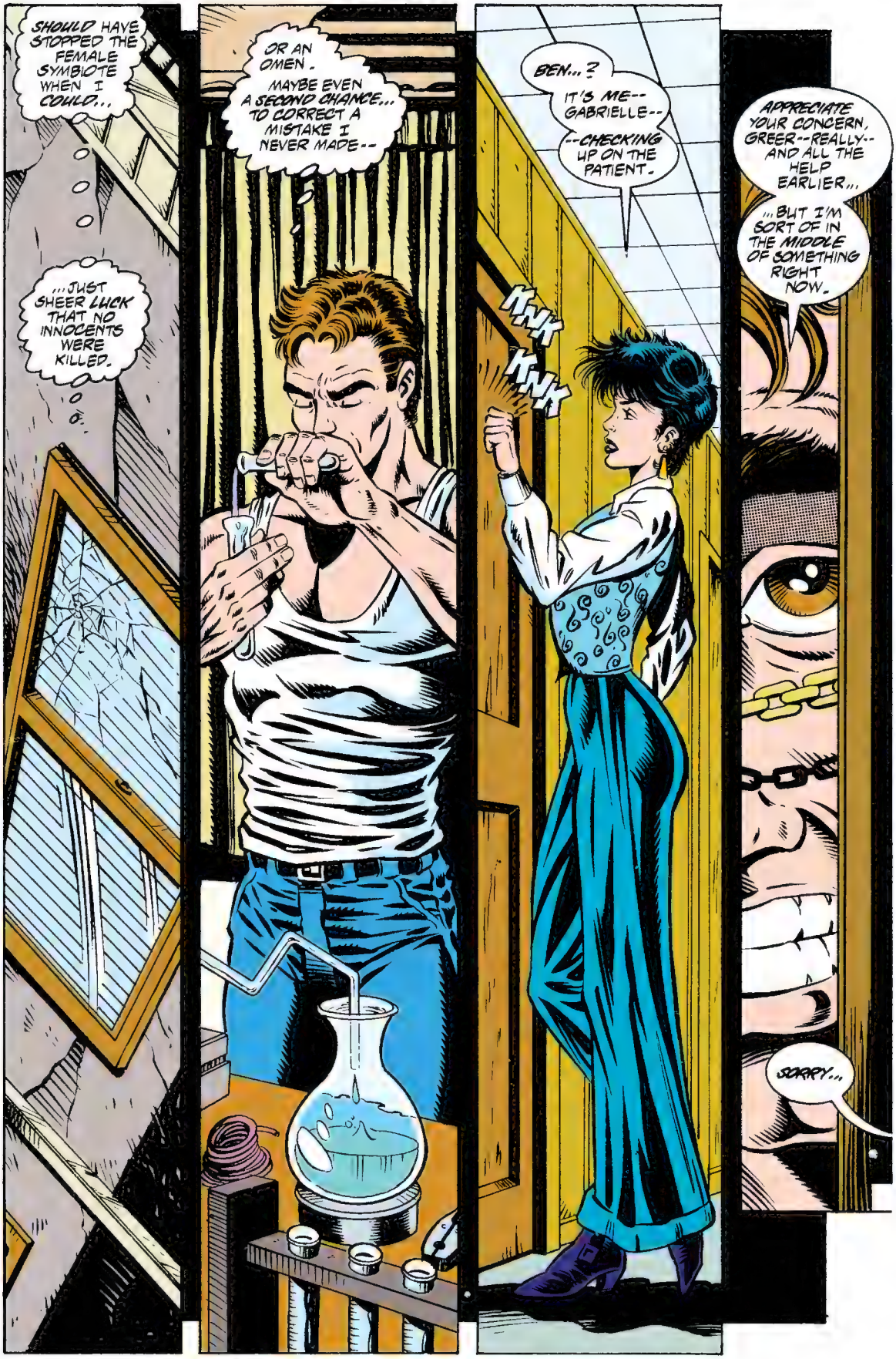
SHK
SHK
KRAK
...SOMETHING ELSE HAS COME UP.
DAILY BUGLE
IS THE SCARLET SPIDER
NNECTED TO SPIDER-MAN?
BY KEN ELLIS


THE CLINIC...
DRESSING'S PERFECT, BUT THE DOC WANTS ANOTHER LOOK AT THESE SUTURES BEFORE SIGNING THE RELEASE.
SPIDER-SENSE WARNING OUT OF NOWHERE...
...THAT'S THE BUGLE REPORTER--KEN ELLIS--HEADING THIS WAY.
NURSE SAID MY PIGEON CHECKED IN AS "JOHN SMITH"--RIGHT--
--AND I'D FIND HIM BACK...
...HERE?
"ACCESS VENT GOT ME OUT OF THE ROOM..."
...AND THE ROOF IS--
KPOP

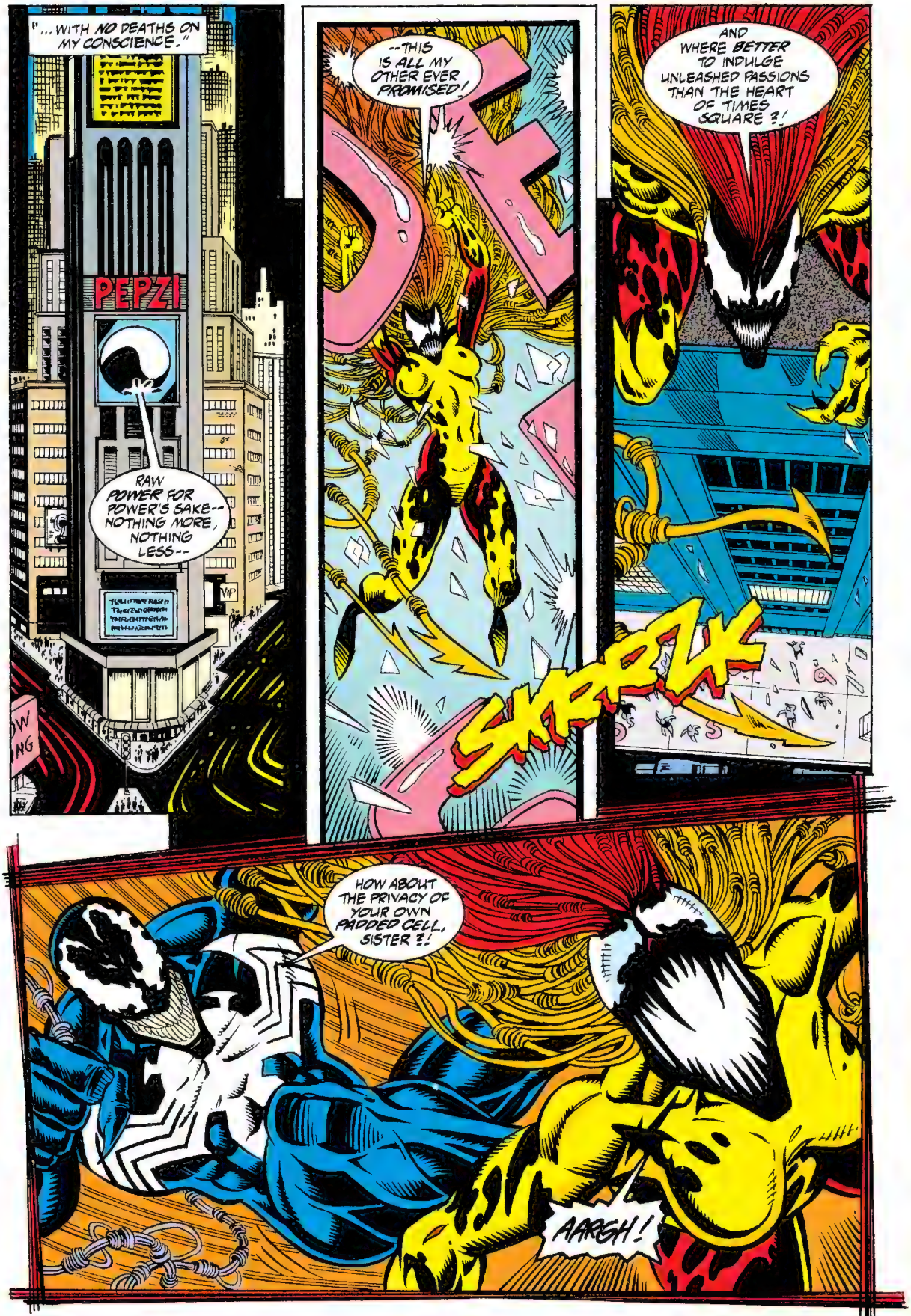

A DEAD END, SPIDER.
SAVE IT FOR VENOM, PSYCHO...
...YOU TWO DESERVE EACH OTHER.
AND IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS ANYMORE.
WRONG AGAIN, HERO...
...WE NEED YOUR--
DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ IN THE PAPERS, BLONDIE...
...I'M NO HERO!
SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAGES--!
NO...
...HE'S GONE ALREADY!
KROOM
THE SPIDER WAS MY--OUR-- LAST LIFELINE...

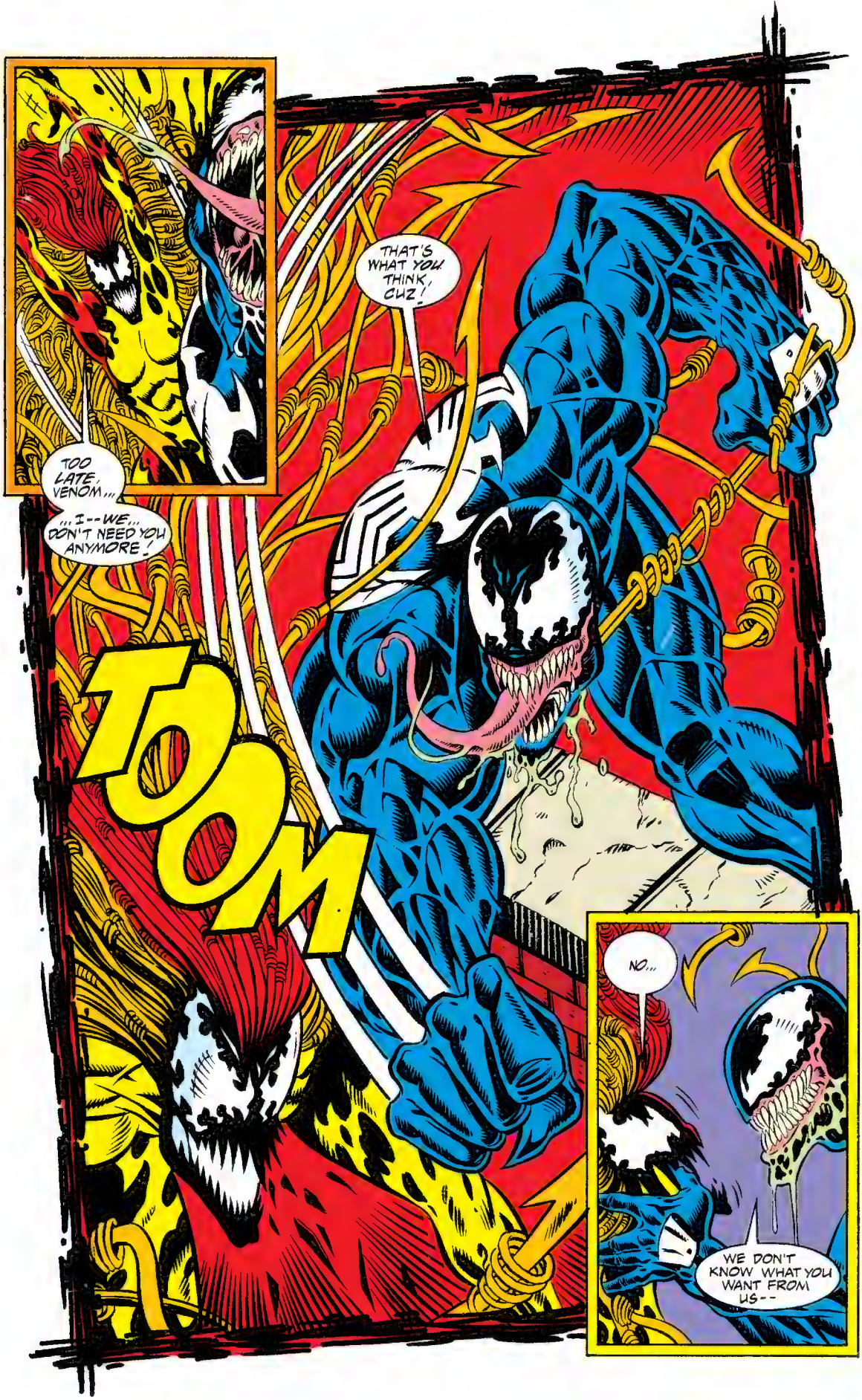
"...WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL!"
THOUGHT I COULD AVOID TROUBLE--FOR EVERYONE AROUND ME--BY HIDING OUT UNDER THE LEDGE BENEATH HER FEET...
...UNTIL SHE GOT BORED AND WENT HOME.
BAD IDEA. SHE'S GONE CRAZY; SMASHING UP EVERYTHING IN HER PATH.
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
I'M DOING MY BEST TO PULVERIZE MOST OF THE DEBRIS BEFORE IT REACHES THE GROUND--
POOM
"--BUT SOME OF IT'S GETTING THROUGH."
uhnnn...
KRAK


WITCH TOOK OFF AFTER HER LITTLE SUPER-TANTRUM...
...AND THE CLINIC STAFF WILL HELP THE INJURED PEDESTRIANS.
BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE--
CLINIC
"--SO MUCH WORSE...
STOP! THIEF! STOP HIM! IF HE MAKES IT TO THE ELEVATOR, HE'LL GET AWAY!
SORRY, PAL! THAT'S YOUR JOB! I'M THROUGH BEING PUSHED AROUND--BY ANYONE!
FROM NOW ON, I JUST LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE-- THAT MEANS--ME!
I OUGHTA RUN YOU IN!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, BUDDY! I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!
" WHEN THAT SAME BURGLAR WENT ON TO INVADE UNCLE BEN'S HOME--MURDER HIM IN COLD BLOOD--"
--SPIDER-MAN SWORE IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
WHEN WILL I LEARN?


SHOULD HAVE STOPPED THE FEMALE SYMBIOTE WHEN I COULD...
...JUST SHEER LUCK THAT NO INNOCENTS WERE KILLED.
OR AN OMEN.
MAYBE EVEN A SECOND CHANCE... TO CORRECT A MISTAKE I NEVER MADE--
BEN...?
IT'S ME-- GABRIELLE--
--CHECKING UP ON THE PATIENT.
KNK
KNK
APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, GREER--REALLY-- AND ALL THE HELP EARLIER...
...BUT I'M SORT OF IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING RIGHT NOW.
SORRY...

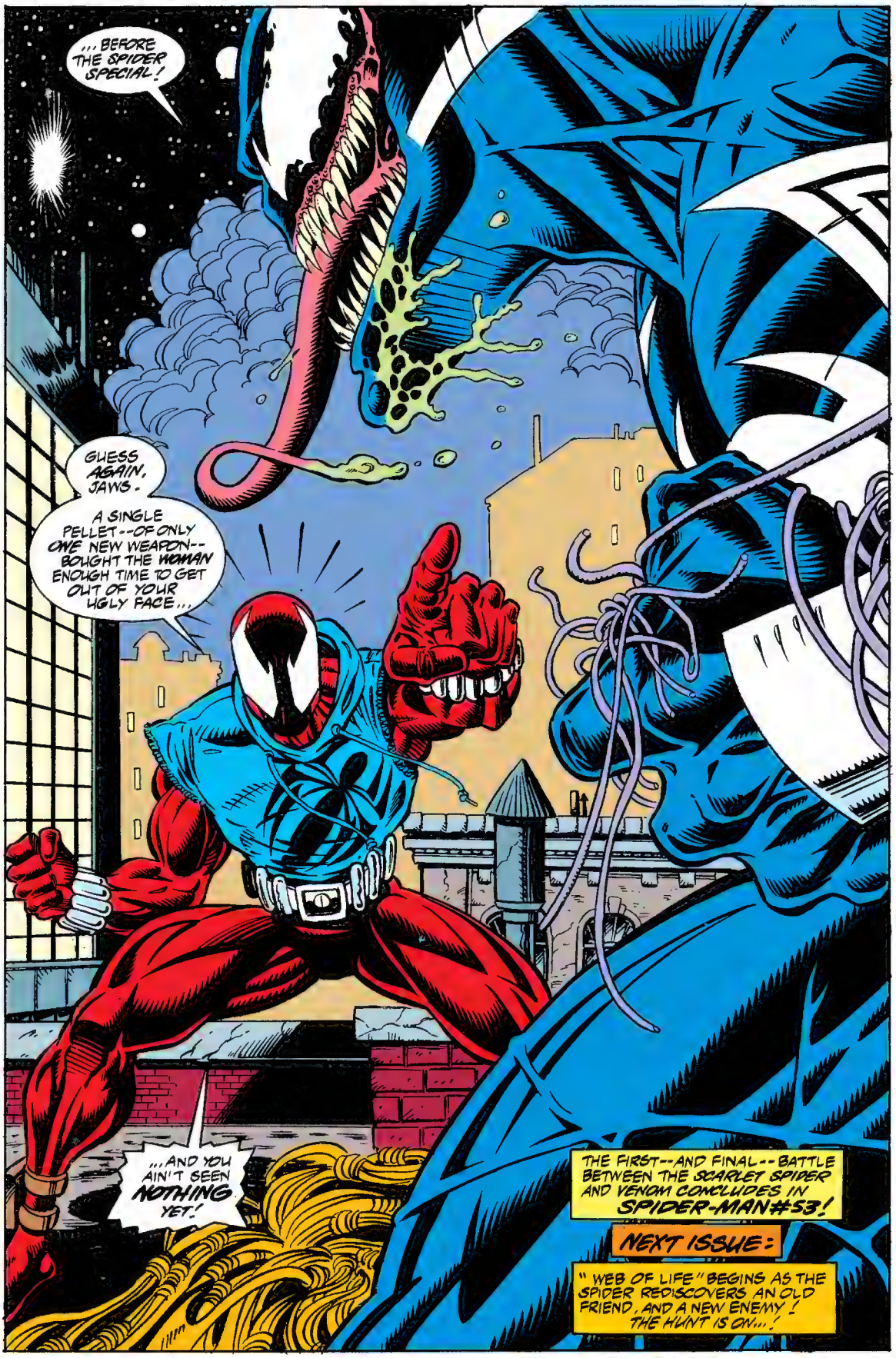
"... MY MISTAKE."
AND MY LOSS.
AGAIN.
ALL THE TIME OVER THE YEARS, IDEAS FOR THINGS LIKE THIS ITEM WERE PERCOLATING IN MY MIND--
--ALMOST AS IF I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME.
SEEMS I WAS WOEFULLY UNPREPARED FOR VENOM AND HIS ILK LAST TIME OUT...
...BUT NOW I'M READY, WILLING--AND MORE THAN ABLE--TO FACE THE WORST.
I'LL TAKE DOWN EVERY SYMBIOTE IN THIS CITY BEFORE LEAVING...


"... WITH NO DEATHS ON MY CONSCIENCE."
PEPZI
RAW POWER FOR POWER'S SAKE-- NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS--
--THIS IS ALL MY OTHER EVER PROMISED!
AND WHERE BETTER TO INDULGE UNLEASHED PASSIONS THAN THE HEART OF TIMES SQUARE?!
SKREAK
HOW ABOUT THE PRIVACY OF YOUR OWN PADDED CELL, SISTER?!
AARGH!


TOO LATE, VENOM...
...I--WE... DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, CUZ!
TOOM
NO...
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT FROM US--

--AND WE DON'T CARE!
WE'RE GOING TO SEPARATE YOU AND YOUR SYMBIOTE! AND THEN DEAL WITH YOU BOTH!
GRABB
SHRK
WE'RE SICK TO DEATH OF SPIDERS AND SYMBIOTES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES...
...THREATENING THE VERY IDENTITY WE FOUGHT SO LONG AND HARD TO MAKE OUR OWN!

please...
DON'T BEG, SPAWN O'MINE...
...IT REFLECTS BADLY ON ALL OF U--
THWP
RADIO REPORTS SAID I'D FIND YOU TWO HERE.
WHAT THE H--?!
THWPH
THWPH
THWPH
I CALL IT IMPACT WEBBING, YENOM.
GENERATING ENOUGH MULTI-TENDRILS--IN MICRO-SECONDS--
--TO CUT YOU OFF FROM YOUR VICTIM!
JUST TASTES LIKE APPETIZER TO ME, HERO...
SHRRP


...BEFORE THE SPIDER SPECIAL!
GUESS AGAIN, JAWS.
A SINGLE PELLET--OF ONLY ONE NEW WEAPON--BOUGHT THE WOMAN ENOUGH TIME TO GET OUT OF YOUR UGLY FACE...
...AND YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET!
THE FIRST--AND FINAL--BATTLE BETWEEN THE SCARLET SPIDER AND VENOM CONCLUDES IN SPIDER-MAN #53!
NEXT ISSUE:
"WEB OF LIFE" BEGINS AS THE SPIDER REDISCOVERS AN OLD FRIEND, AND A NEW ENEMY! THE HUNT IS ON...!

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$1.95 US
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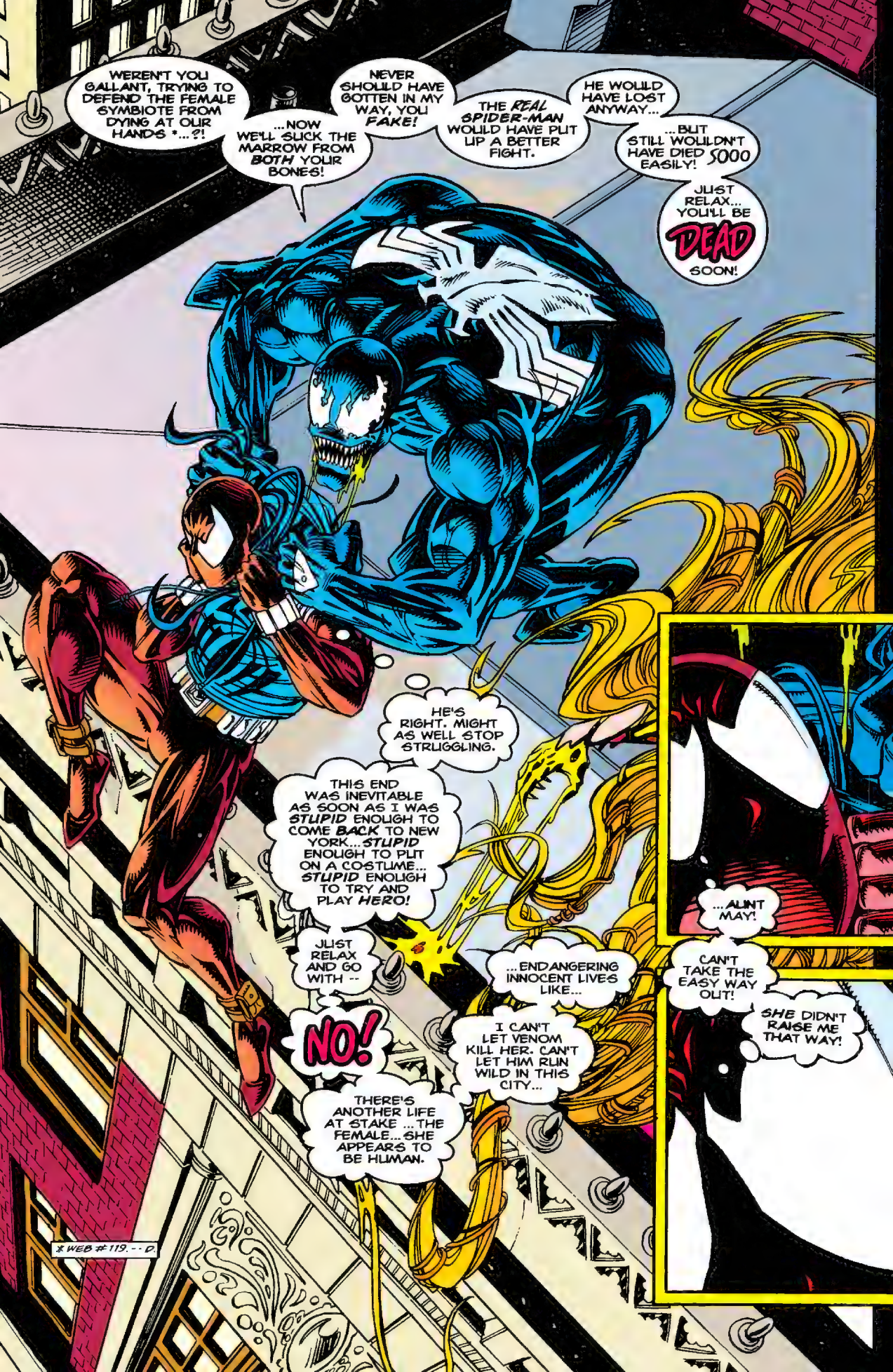
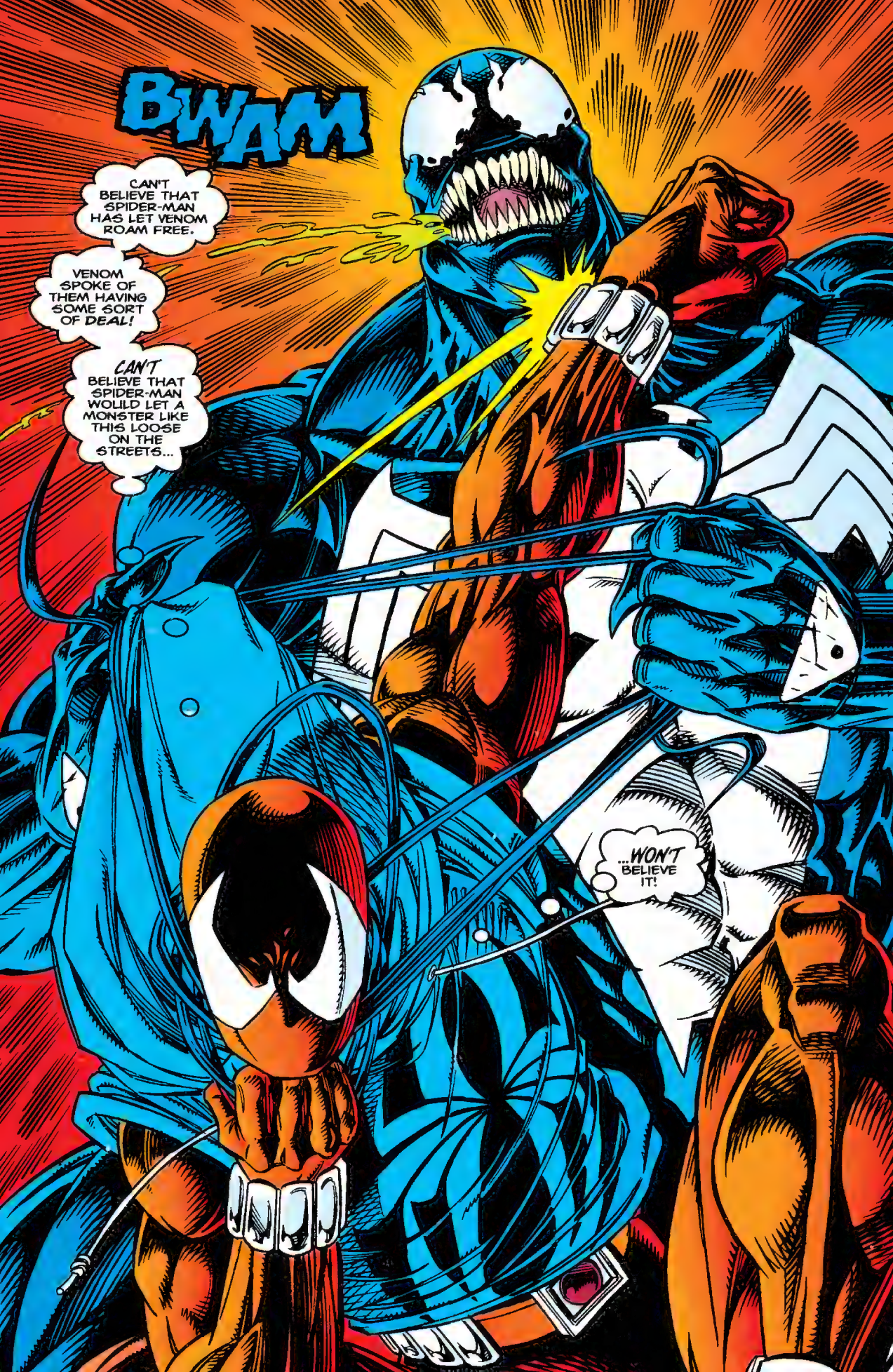
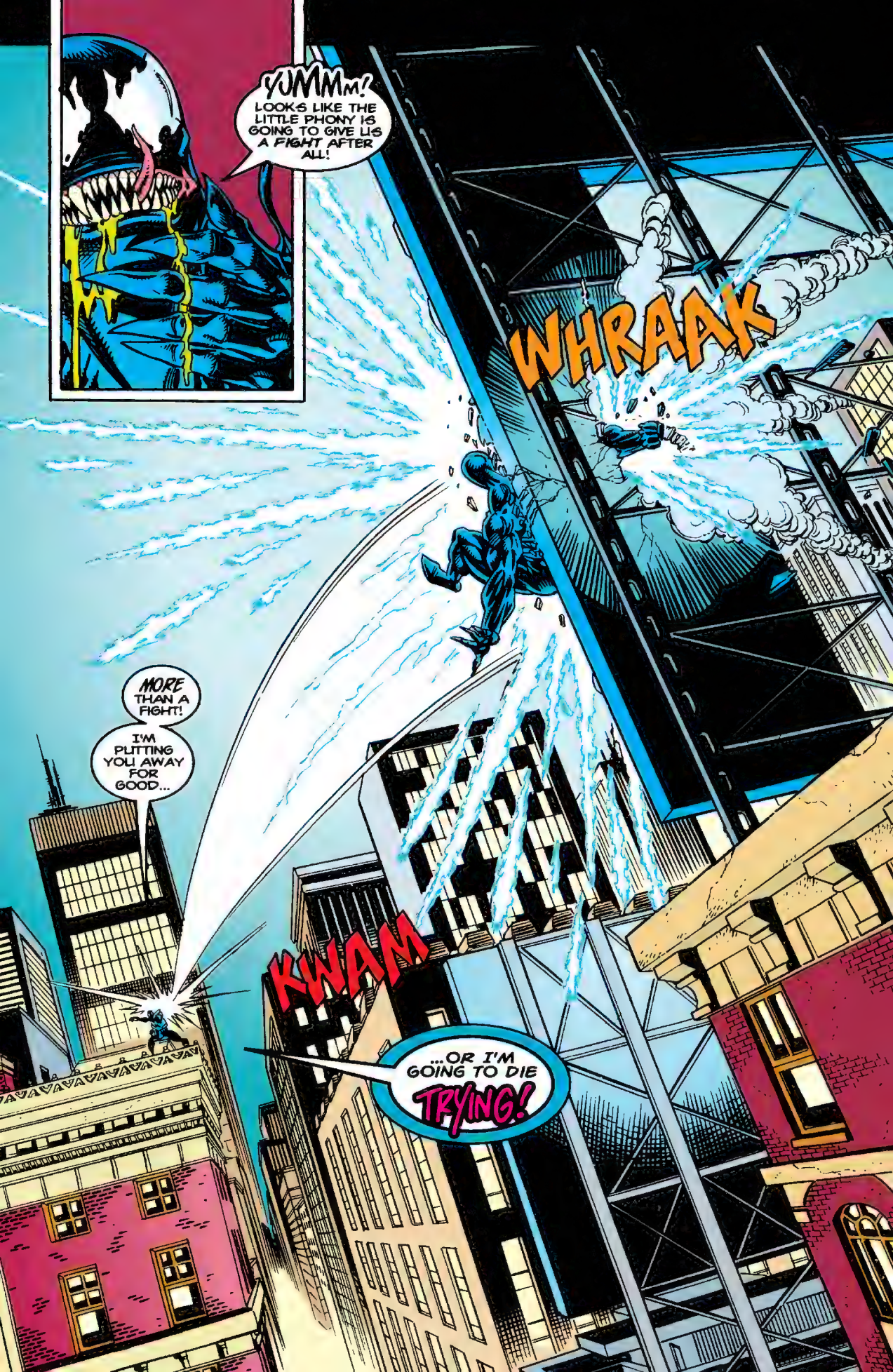
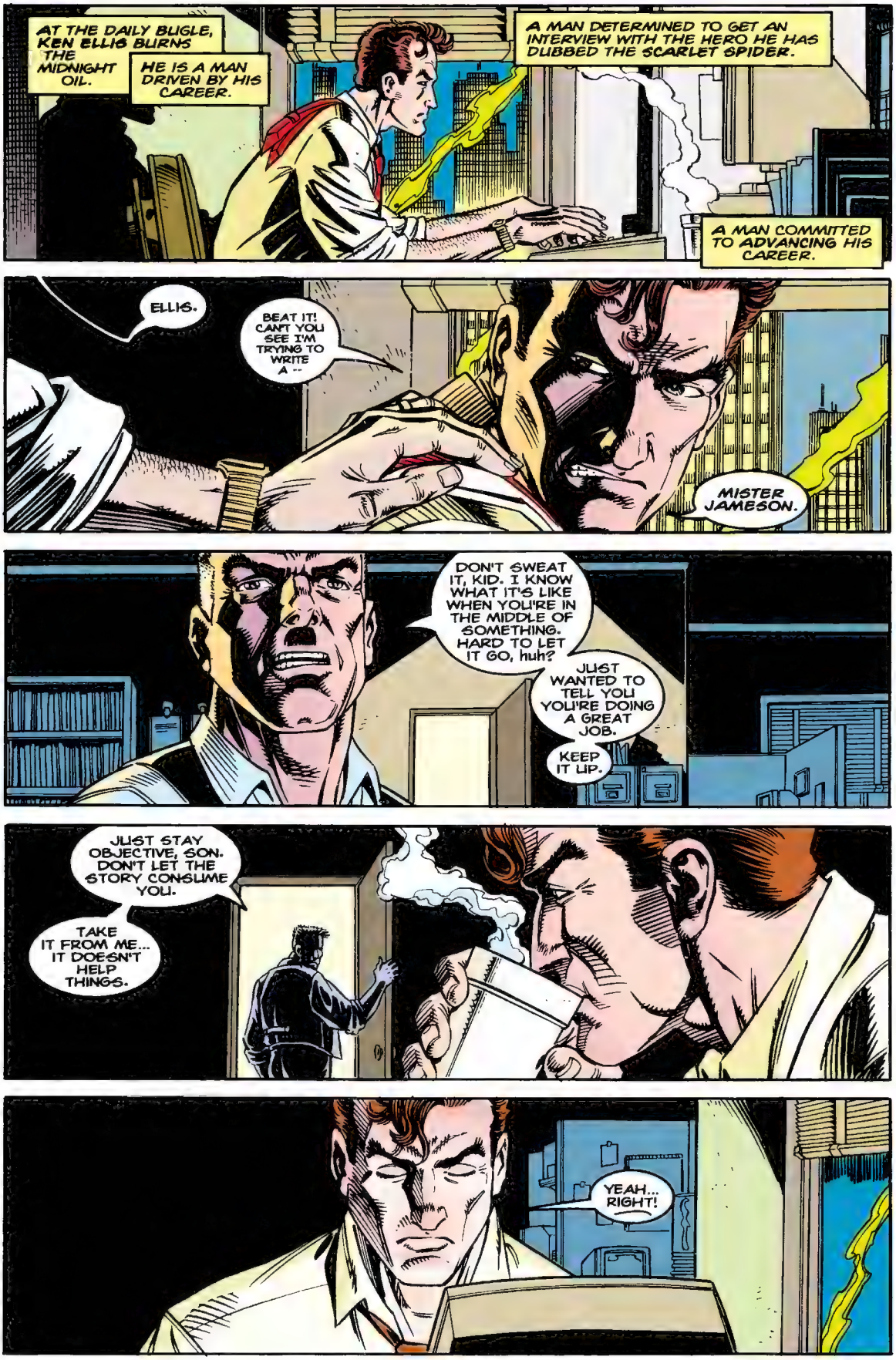
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE EXILE RETURNS PART 4 OF 4
THE SCARLET SPIDER'S GREATEST MOMENT OF GLORY...
THE FALL OF VENOM!

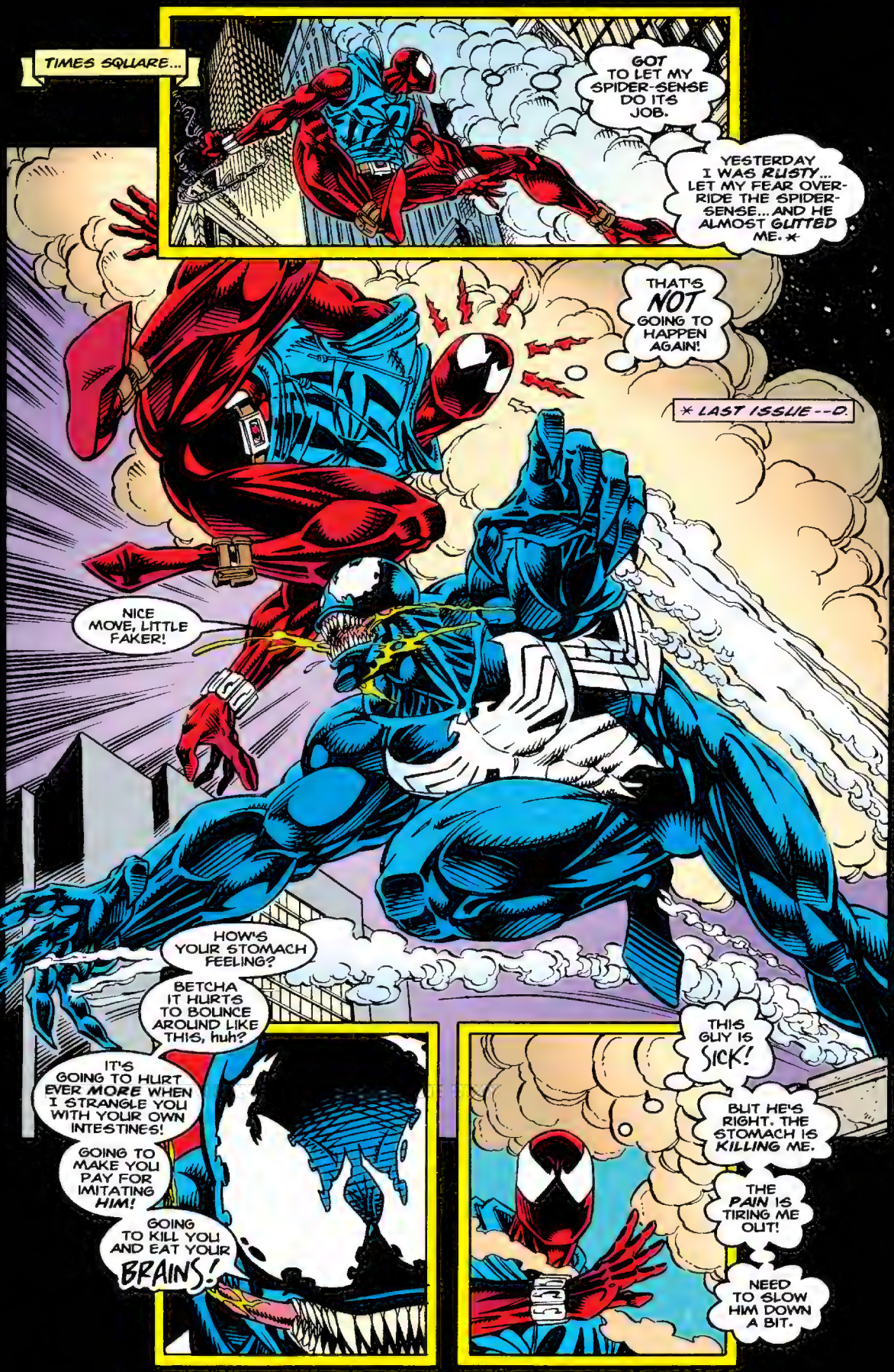
STAN LEE PRESENTS THE SCARLET SPIDER IN
GATHERING
STORMS
NEW YORK CITY...
THIRTY SECONDS AGO, THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN DUBBED THE SCARLET SPIDER BELIEVED HIS RAGE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO ENABLE HIM TO BEAT VENOM.*
NOW HE REALIZES THAT THAT WASN'T NECESSARILY TRUE.
DIE, IMPOSTOR!
SO THIS IS HOW MY RETURN TO MANHATTAN... TO A LIFE THAT NEVER BELONGED TO ME... ENDS?
STRANGLED TO DEATH WITH THE HOOD OF MY OWN NEWLY CREATED COSTUME?
GUESS I DESERVE IT.
I'M ONLY A CLONE!
*WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #119.--DANNY
THE AWESOME CONCLUSION TO THE EXILE RETURNS
HOWARD MACKIE & TOM LYLE story & art
SCOTT HANNA finishes
STARKINGS/COMICRAFT lettering
KEVIN TINSLEY colors
DANNY FINGEROTH editor
TOM DEFALCO editor in chief

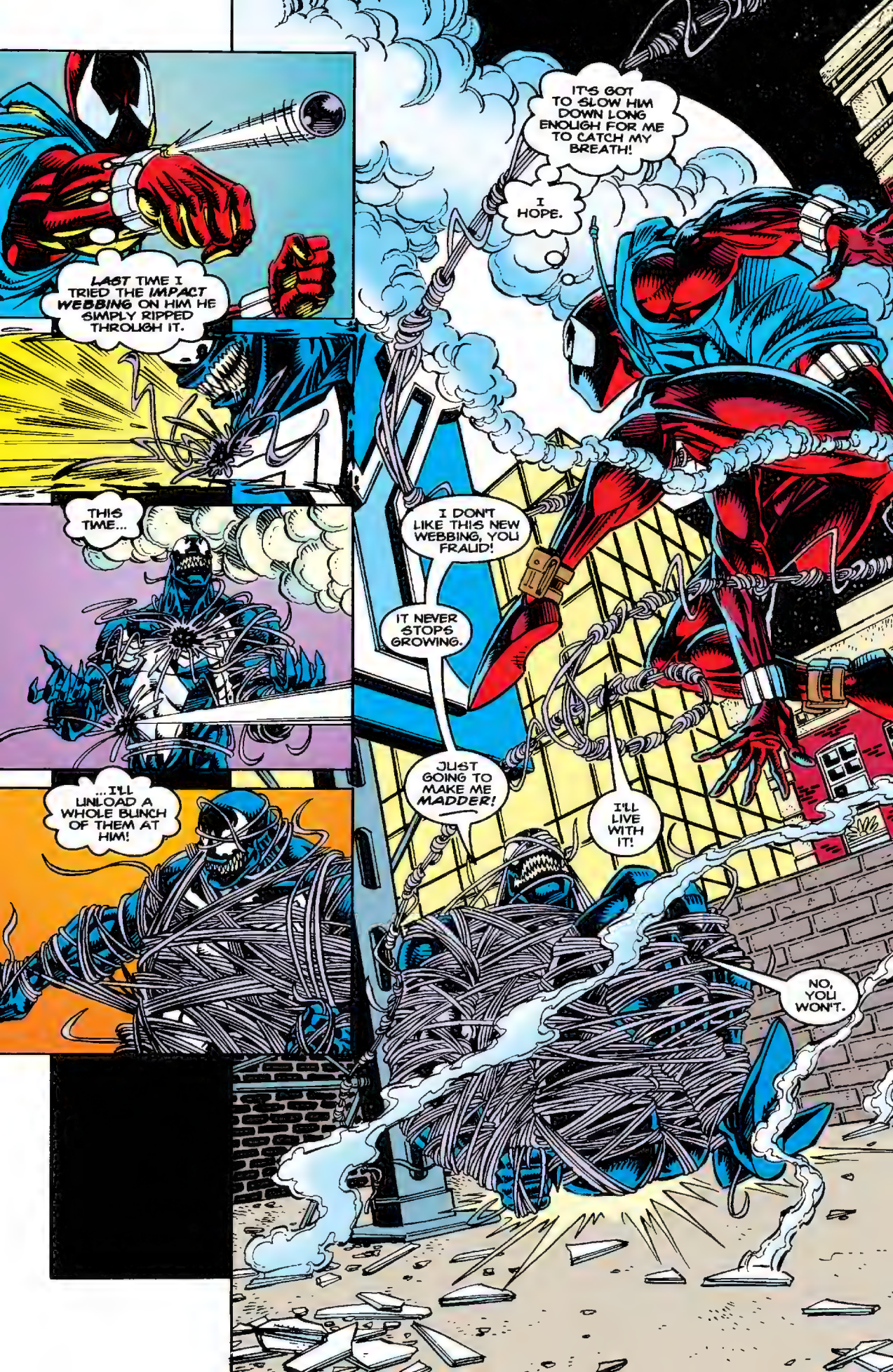

WEREN'T YOU GALLANT, TRYING TO DEFEND THE FEMALE SYMBIOTE FROM DYING AT OUR HANDS *...?!
...NOW WE'LL SUCK THE MARROW FROM BOTH YOUR BONES!
NEVER SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN IN MY WAY, YOU FAKE!
THE REAL SPIDER-MAN WOULD HAVE PUT UP A BETTER FIGHT.
HE WOULD HAVE LOST ANYWAY...
...BUT STILL WOULDN'T HAVE DIED SOOO EASILY!
JUST RELAX... YOU'LL BE DEAD SOON!
HE'S RIGHT. MIGHT AS WELL STOP STRUGGLING.
THIS END WAS INEVITABLE AS SOON AS I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO COME BACK TO NEW YORK... STUPID ENOUGH TO PUT ON A COSTUME... STUPID ENOUGH TO TRY AND PLAY HERO!
JUST RELAX AND GO WITH --
NO!
...ENDANGERING INNOCENT LIVES LIKE...
I CAN'T LET VENOM KILL HER. CAN'T LET HIM RUN WILD IN THIS CITY...
THERE'S ANOTHER LIFE AT STAKE ...THE FEMALE... SHE APPEARS TO BE HUMAN.
...AUNT MAY!
CAN'T TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT!
SHE DIDN'T RAISE ME THAT WAY!
X WEB #119. -- D.


BWAM
CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SPIDER-MAN HAS LET VENOM ROAM FREE.
VENOM SPOKE OF THEM HAVING SOME SORT OF DEAL!
CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SPIDER-MAN WOULD LET A MONSTER LIKE THIS LOOSE ON THE STREETS...
...WON'T BELIEVE IT!

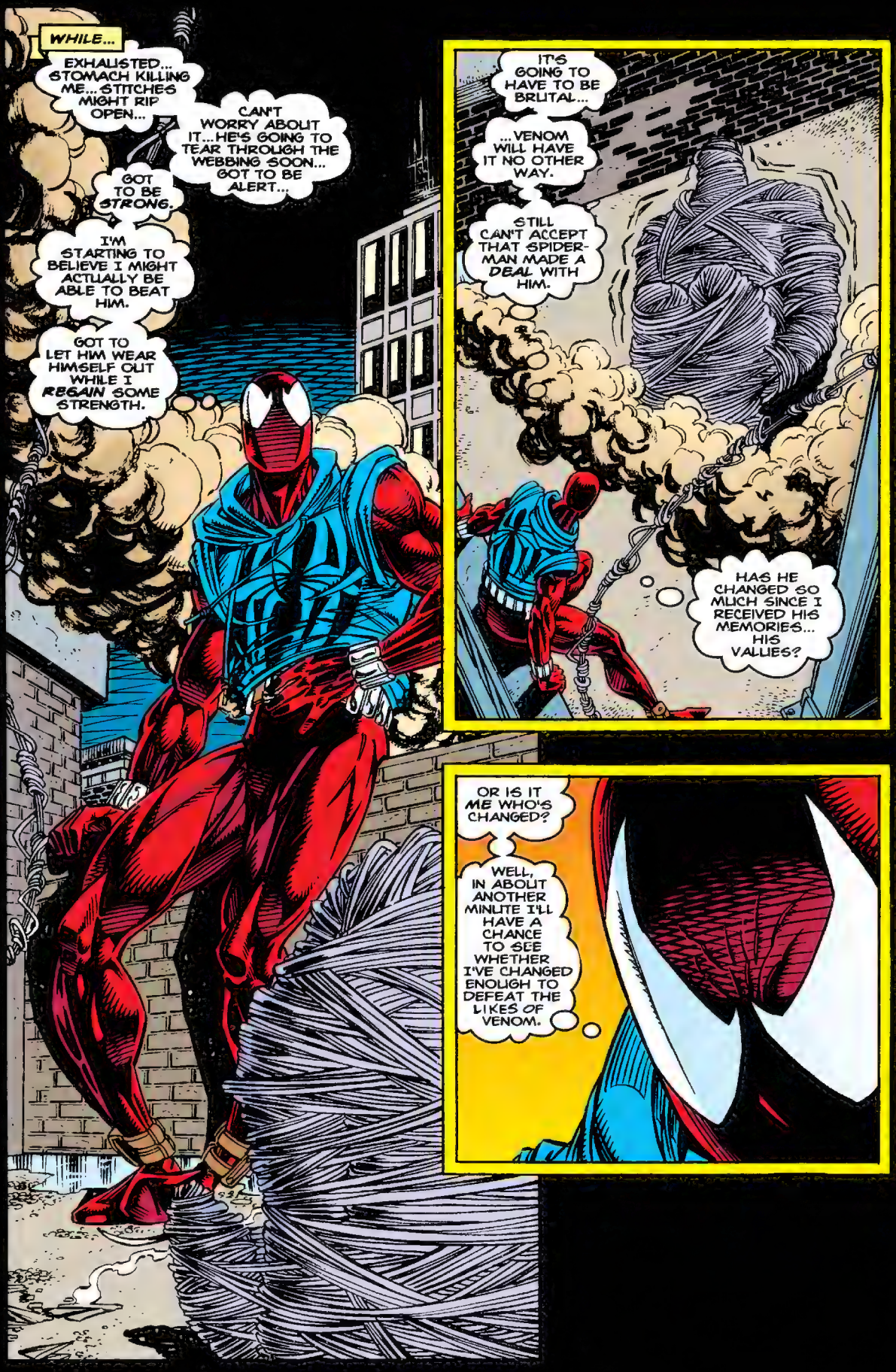

YUMMm!
LOOKS LIKE THE LITTLE PHONY IS GOING TO GIVE US A FIGHT AFTER ALL!
WHRAAK
MORE THAN A FIGHT!
I'M PUTTING YOU AWAY FOR GOOD...
KWAM
...OR I'M GOING TO DIE TRYING!

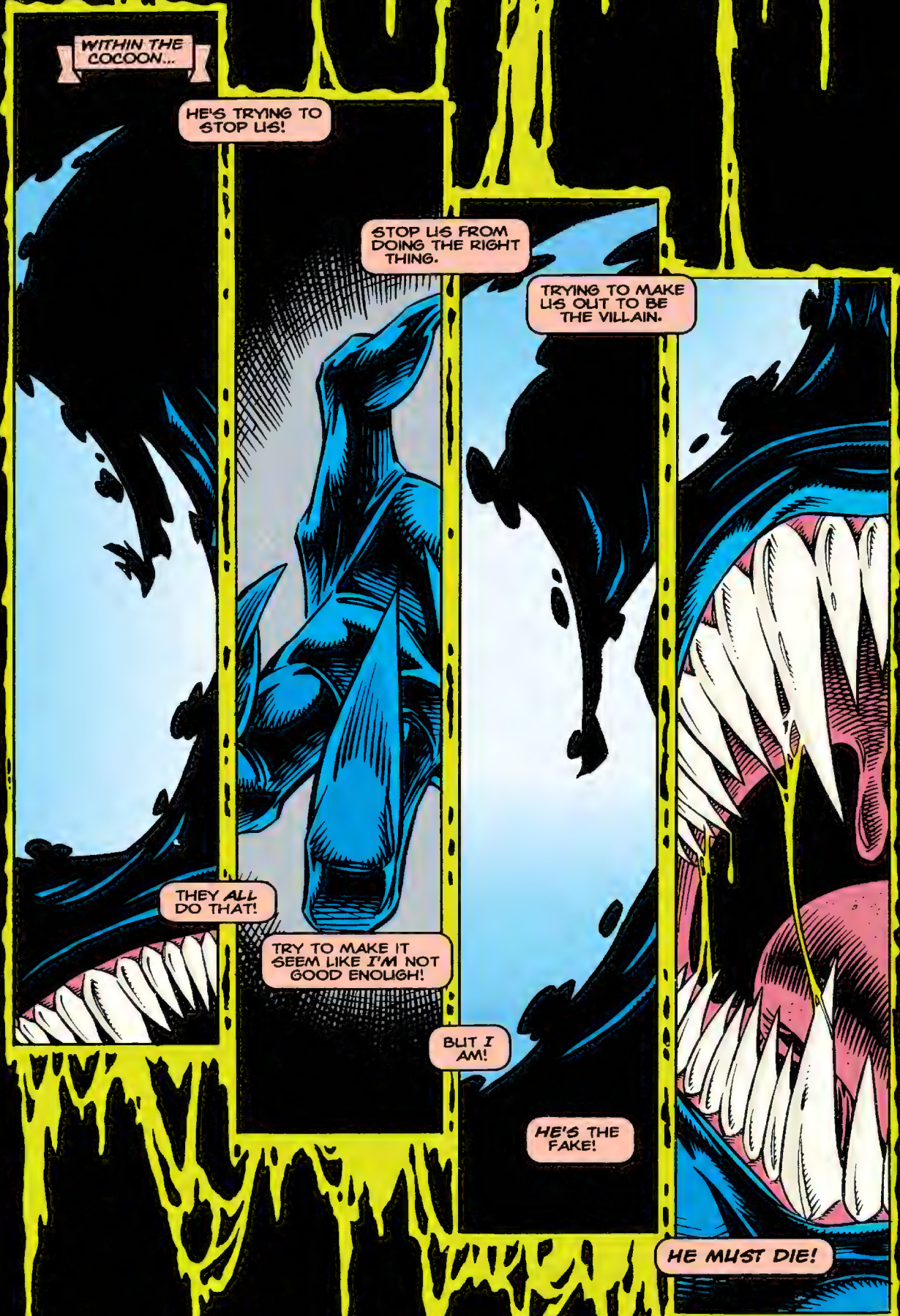

AT THE DAILY BUGLE, KEN ELLIS BURNS THE MIDNIGHT OIL.
HE IS A MAN DRIVEN BY HIS CAREER.
A MAN DETERMINED TO GET AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HERO HE HAS DUBBED THE SCARLET SPIDER.
A MAN COMMITTED TO ADVANCING HIS CAREER.
ELLIS.
BEAT IT! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M TRYING TO WRITE A --
MISTER JAMESON.
DON'T SWEAT IT, KID. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING. HARD TO LET IT GO, huh?
JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB.
KEEP IT UP.
JUST STAY OBJECTIVE, SON. DON'T LET THE STORY CONSUME YOU.
TAKE IT FROM ME... IT DOESN'T HELP THINGS.
YEAH... RIGHT!


TIMES SQUARE...
GOT TO LET MY SPIDER-SENSE DO ITS JOB.
YESTERDAY I WAS RUSTY... LET MY FEAR OVER-RIDE THE SPIDER-SENSE... AND HE ALMOST GUTTED ME. *
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN AGAIN!
* LAST ISSUE--D.
NICE MOVE, LITTLE FAKER!
HOW'S YOUR STOMACH FEELING?
BETCHA IT HURTS TO BOUNCE AROUND LIKE THIS, huh?
IT'S GOING TO HURT EVER MORE WHEN I STRANGLE YOU WITH YOUR OWN INTESTINES!
GOING TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR IMITATING HIM!
GOING TO KILL YOU AND EAT YOUR BRAINS!
THIS GUY IS SICK!
BUT HE'S RIGHT. THE STOMACH IS KILLING ME.
THE PAIN IS TIRING ME OUT!
NEED TO SLOW HIM DOWN A BIT.


LAST TIME I TRIED THE IMPACT WEBBING ON HIM HE SIMPLY RIPPED THROUGH IT.
THIS TIME...
...I'LL UNLOAD A WHOLE BUNCH OF THEM AT HIM!
IT'S GOT TO SLOW HIM DOWN LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO CATCH MY BREATH!
I HOPE.
I DON'T LIKE THIS NEW WEBBING, YOU FRAUD!
IT NEVER STOPS GROWING.
JUST GOING TO MAKE ME MADDER!
I'LL LIVE WITH IT!
NO, YOU WON'T.

MEANWHILE...
THE SPIDER SOUGHT TO CONTAIN ME, FATHER.
HE TRIED TO HAVE ME IMPRISONED... CAGED LIKE SOME BROKEN AND SHAMED BEAST!
A KRAVINOFF WILL NOT BE BROKEN!
I USED OUR WEALTH TO GET OUT OF PRISON, FATHER.
AND NOW, I, THE GRIM HUNTER, SON OF KRAVEN, SWEAR TO YOU...
HERE LIES
ERGEI
RAVINOF
VEN the HUNT
REE AT LAST
...THE HUNT WILL CONTINUE.
AND EITHER THE SPIDER... OR I...
...WILL DIE!


WHILE...
EXHAUSTED... STOMACH KILLING ME... STITCHES MIGHT RIP OPEN...
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT IT... HE'S GOING TO TEAR THROUGH THE WEBBING SOON... GOT TO BE ALERT...
GOT TO BE STRONG.
I'M STARTING TO BELIEVE I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO BEAT HIM.
GOT TO LET HIM WEAR HIMSELF OUT WHILE I REGAIN SOME STRENGTH.
IT'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE BRUTAL...
...VENOM WILL HAVE IT NO OTHER WAY.
STILL CAN'T ACCEPT THAT SPIDER-MAN MADE A DEAL WITH HIM.
HAS HE CHANGED SO MUCH SINCE I RECEIVED HIS MEMORIES... HIS VALUES?
OR IS IT ME WHO'S CHANGED?
WELL, IN ABOUT ANOTHER MINUTE I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE WHETHER I'VE CHANGED ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THE LIKES OF VENOM.


WITHIN THE COCOON...
HE'S TRYING TO STOP US!
STOP US FROM DOING THE RIGHT THING.
TRYING TO MAKE US OUT TO BE THE VILLAIN.
THEY ALL DO THAT!
TRY TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
BUT I AM!
HE'S THE FAKE!
HE MUST DIE!

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH...
POLICE DETECTIVE JACOB RAVEN SITS AT HIS WINDOW SEAT, APART FROM THE REST OF THE DETECTIVES IN THE HOMICIDE BUREAU.
HIS THOUGHTS ARE ELSEWHERE.
ON A KILLER WHO HAS ELUDED HIM FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.
A KILLER HE IS DETERMINED TO BRING TO JUSTICE.
RAVEN, YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO SEE THIS --
-- LOOKS LIKE YOUR MAN HAS SHOWN UP IN NEW YORK CITY!
SAME MARKINGS ON THE FACE AS HE LEFT ON... ON...
TAKE IT, JACOB. IT'S YOURS.
RAVEN STUDIES THE FAX.
THE PHOTOS OF THE DEAD BODIES LEAVE NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND.
IT'S HIM.
IT'S HIM.

THIS IS IT.

THE WEBBING'S ABOUT TO GIVE.

GOT TO WORK ON THE FORMULA TO MAKE IT A LITTLE *STRONGER* FOR FUTURE USE.

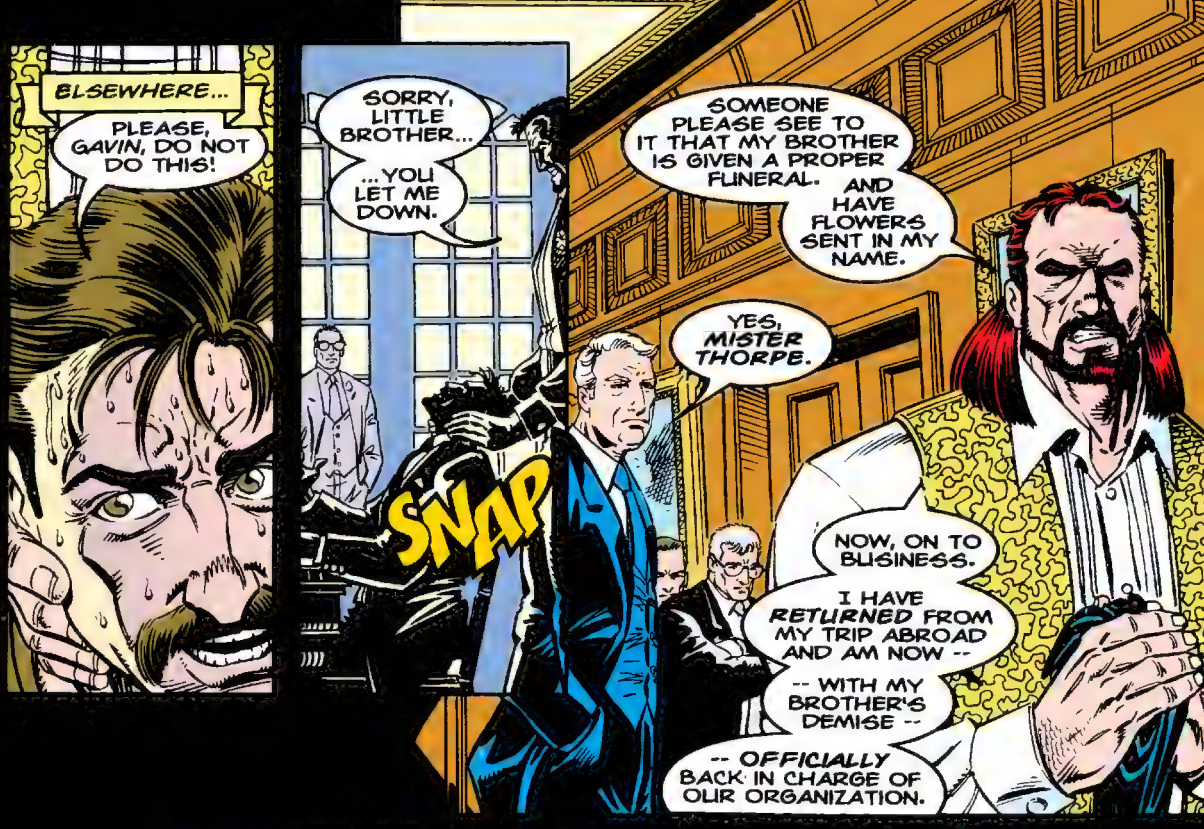
IF I *HAVE* A FUTURE!

WE'RE FREE!

HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED YOUR REST, LITTLE SPIDER, BECAUSE...

NAP TIME IS OVER!

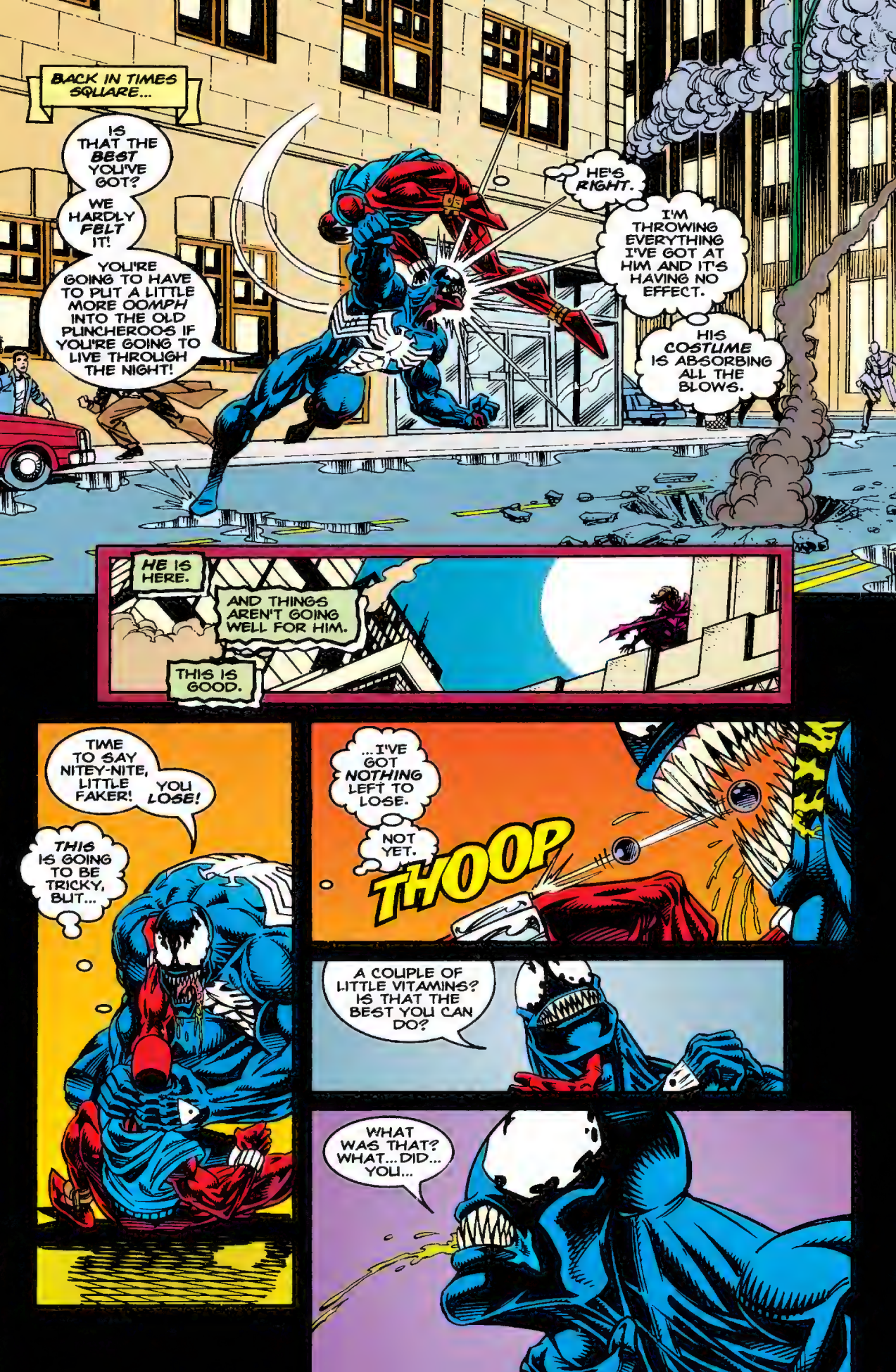
YEAH! *DEFINITELY* COULD USE A STRONGER WEBBING!


ELSEWHERE...
PLEASE, GAVIN, DO NOT DO THIS!
SORRY, LITTLE BROTHER...
...YOU LET ME DOWN.
SNAP
SOMEONE PLEASE SEE TO IT THAT MY BROTHER IS GIVEN A PROPER FUNERAL.
AND HAVE FLOWERS SENT IN MY NAME.
YES, MISTER THORPE.
NOW, ON TO BUSINESS.
I HAVE RETURNED FROM MY TRIP ABROAD AND AM NOW --
-- WITH MY BROTHER'S DEMISE --
-- OFFICIALLY BACK IN CHARGE OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

I WANT REPORTS ON ANY POTENTIAL INTERFERENCE WITH OUR DAY TO DAY OPERATION.
POLICE OFFICERS, DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, ANY COMPETITORS. I WANT NAMES.
SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN KNOWN TO SLOW THINGS DOWN.

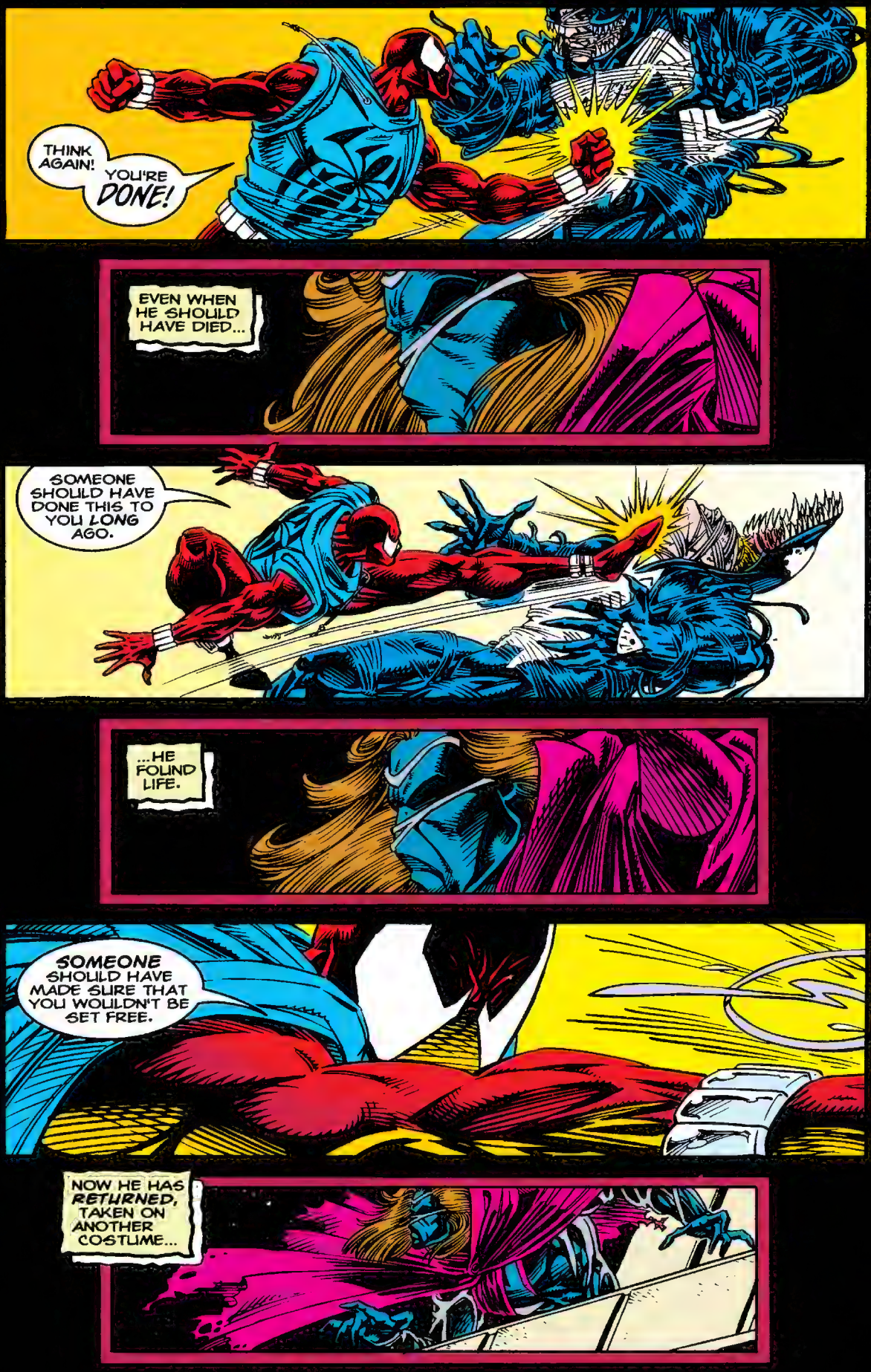
EXCELLENT, SIR.
NOW...

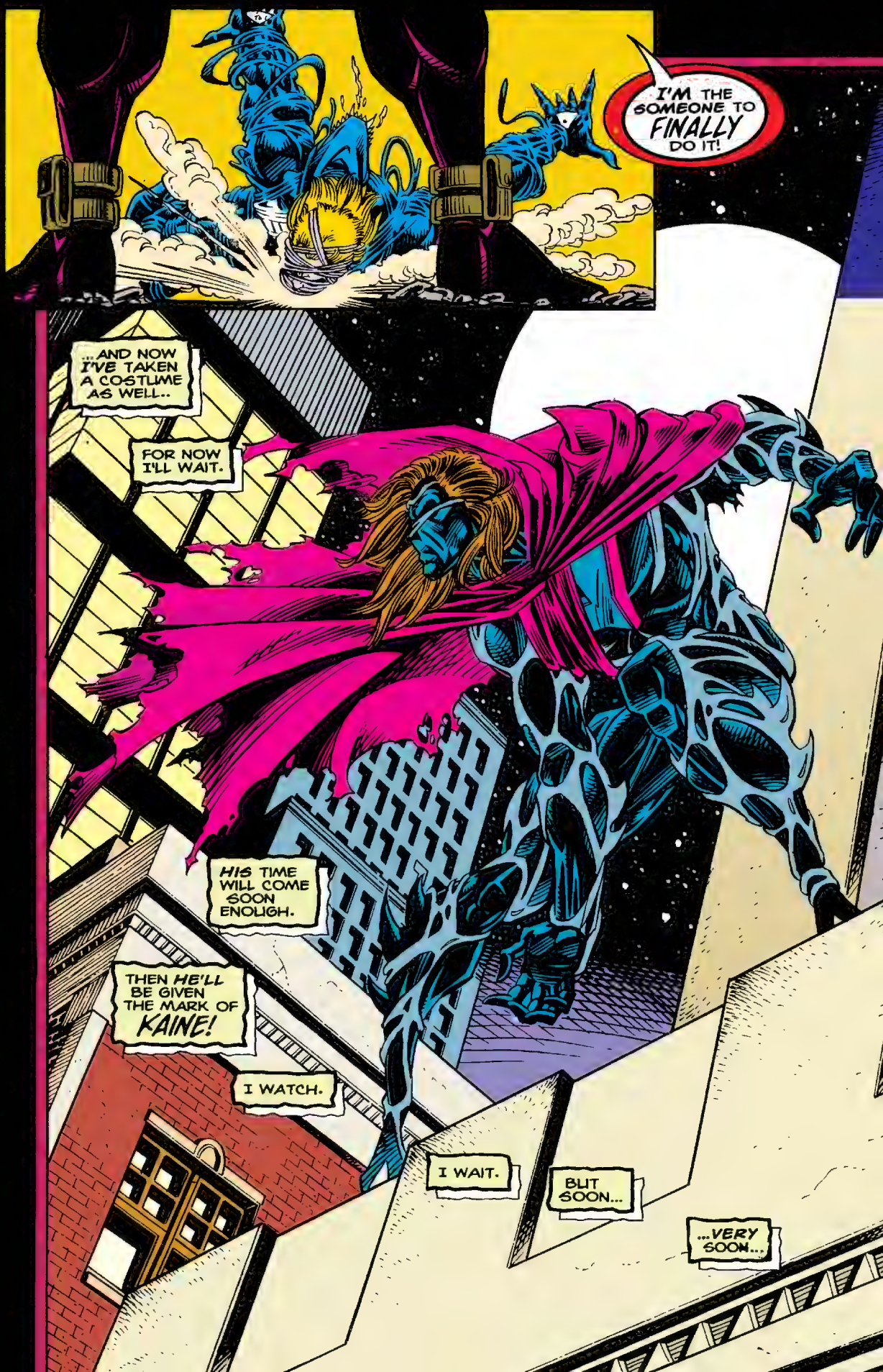
...HOW DO WE GO ABOUT ELIMINATING THIS SPIDER-MAN?

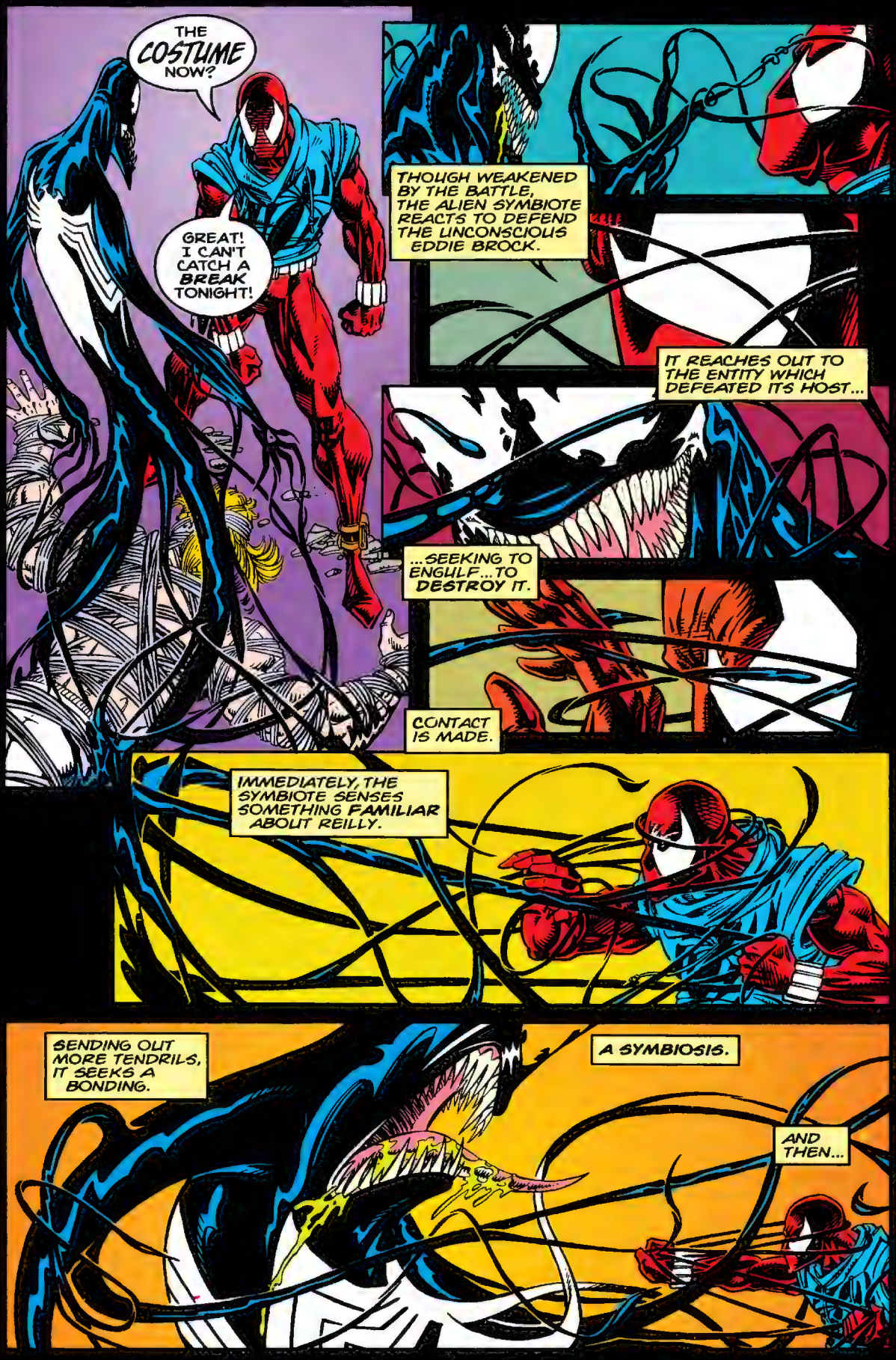

BACK IN TIMES SQUARE...
IS THAT THE BEST YOU'VE GOT?
WE HARDLY FELT IT!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT A LITTLE MORE OOMPH INTO THE OLD PUNCHEROOS IF YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE THROUGH THE NIGHT!
HE'S RIGHT.
I'M THROWING EVERYTHING I'VE GOT AT HIM AND IT'S HAVING NO EFFECT.
HIS COSTUME IS ABSORBING ALL THE BLOWS.
HE IS HERE.
AND THINGS AREN'T GOING WELL FOR HIM.
THIS IS GOOD.
TIME TO SAY NITEY-NITE, LITTLE FAKER! YOU LOSE!
THIS IS GOING TO BE TRICKY, BUT...
...I'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.
NOT YET.
THOOP
A COUPLE OF LITTLE VITAMINS? IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT... DID... YOU...

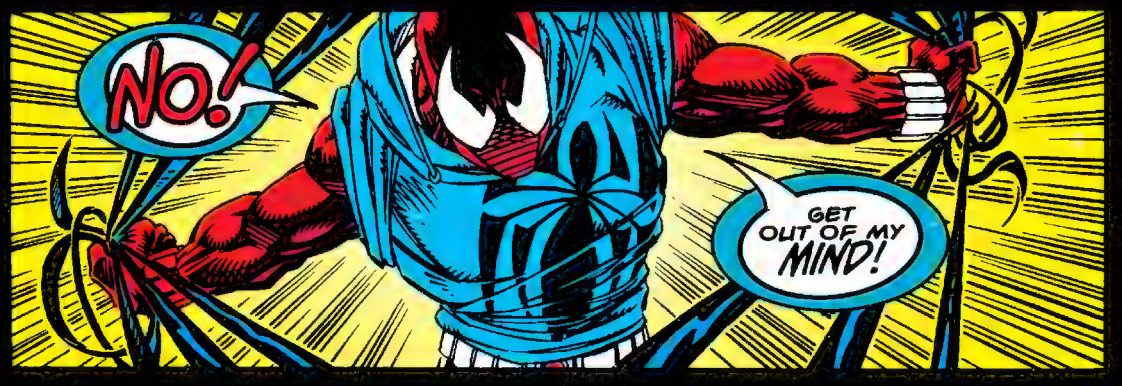
...DO...
...TO...
...US!
SHOT THE IMPACT WEBBING BETWEEN THE COSTUME AND THE MAN WITHIN.
IF THEY'RE PARTNERED THE WAY I READ ABOUT...
"...NOW I JUST SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR IT TO DO ITS THING.
"SPREAD OUT... GROW AND...
"PUSH THE LIVING COSTUME AWAY FROM THE MAN."
WHICH LEAVES HIM WIDE OPEN FOR A STINGER!
AAARRGH
THAT HURT!

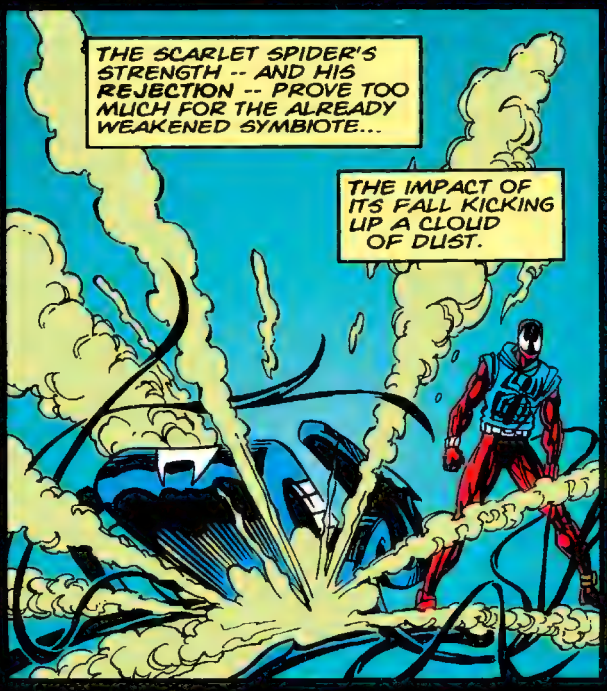
HE'S TURNING THE TIDE OF THE BATTLE.
HE ALWAYS WAS THE LUCKY ONE.
YOU CAN'T KILL US!
YOUR WEBBING AND YOUR STINGERS ONLY MAKE US ANGRY!
NOT LOOKING TO KILL YOU! JUST SETTING UP...
...THIS SHOT!
ALWAYS LUCKY.
WE WILL GNAW ON YOUR SPINE FOR THAT!
YOU CAN'T BEAT US!

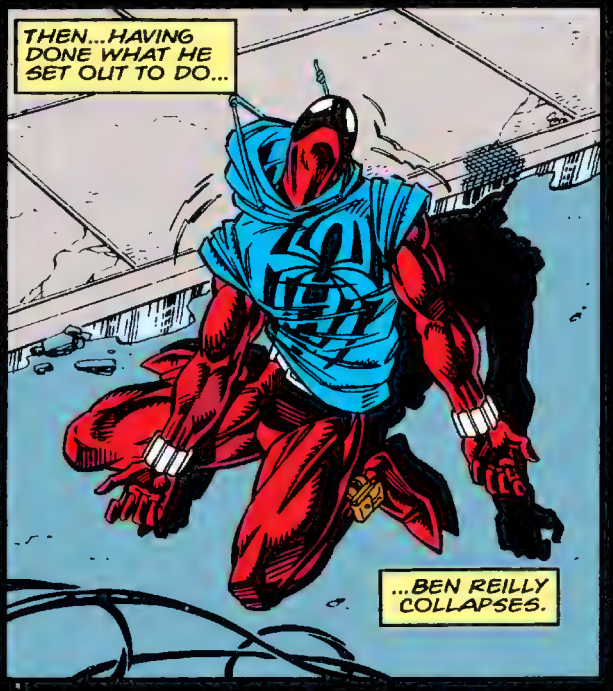

THINK AGAIN!
YOU'RE DONE!
EVEN WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE DIED...
SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS TO YOU LONG AGO.
...HE FOUND LIFE.
SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE MADE SURE THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE SET FREE.
NOW HE HAS RETURNED, TAKEN ON ANOTHER COSTUME...


I'M THE SOMEONE TO FINALLY DO IT!
...AND NOW I'VE TAKEN A COSTUME AS WELL..
FOR NOW I'LL WAIT.
HIS TIME WILL COME SOON ENOUGH.
THEN HE'LL BE GIVEN THE MARK OF KAINE!
I WATCH.
I WAIT.
BUT SOON...
...VERY SOON...

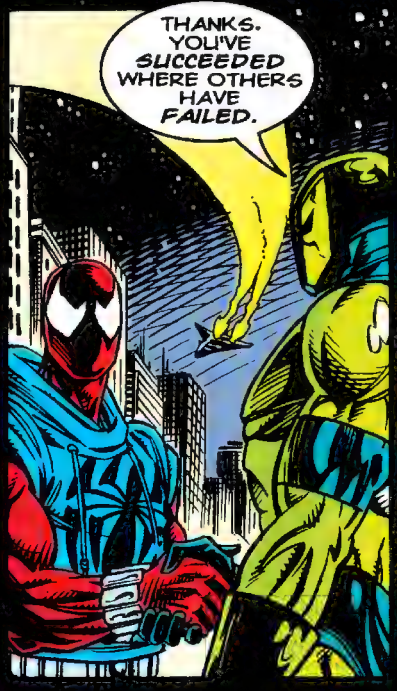

THE COSTUME NOW?
GREAT! I CAN'T CATCH A BREAK TONIGHT!
THOUGH WEAKENED BY THE BATTLE, THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE REACTS TO DEFEND THE UNCONSCIOUS EDDIE BROCK.
IT REACHES OUT TO THE ENTITY WHICH DEFEATED ITS HOST...
...SEEKING TO ENGULF...TO DESTROY IT.
CONTACT IS MADE.
IMMEDIATELY, THE SYMBIOTE SENSES SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT REILLY.
SENDING OUT MORE TENDRILS, IT SEEKS A BONDING.
A SYMBIOSIS.
AND THEN...


NO!
GET OUT OF MY MIND!


THE SCARLET SPIDER'S STRENGTH -- AND HIS REJECTION -- PROVE TOO MUCH FOR THE ALREADY WEAKENED SYMBIOTE...
THE IMPACT OF ITS FALL KICKING UP A CLOUD OF DUST.


THEN...HAVING DONE WHAT HE SET OUT TO DO...
...BEN REILLY COLLAPSES.

LATER...
THE GUARDSMEN HAVE ARRIVED AND CONTAINED BOTH BROCK AND THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE.
THIS TIME WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THE TWO OF THEM AS FAR APART AS POSSIBLE.


THANKS. YOU'VE SUCCEEDED WHERE OTHERS HAVE FAILED.

I DID IT!
I BEAT VENOM!
MAYBE IT'S TIME TO START CLAIMING SOME SORT OF LIFE FOR MYSELF.
THERE'S NOTHING TO STAND IN MY WAY...
...NOTHING AT ALL!
NEXT ISSUE:
THE RETURN OF THE GRIM HUNTER AND...WHO IS KAINE?

WAM
ROOOOSH
THE LANDING IS BRUTAL.
PERHAPS THE JUDGES WILL GIVE HIM HIGH MARKS FOR HIS ARTISTIC IMPRESSION!
WILL REINHOLD '94

Courtesy of HeritageAuctions.com

Venom: The Mace #3, page 8 art by LIAM SHARP & BILL REINHOLD

MARVEL COMICS
1 DEC
VENOM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SEPARATION ANXIETY
PART 1 OF 4
EDDIE BROCK™-- WITHOUT HIS LIVING COSTUME-- AT THE MERCY OF FIVE SYMBIOTES!

Look at them.
They're afraid of me.
I can't move a muscle...
...got weapons pointed at every major organ...
...and they're afraid of me!

You'd think that Eddie Brock was a dangerous man!

ALL UNITS TAKE GROUND POSITIONS.

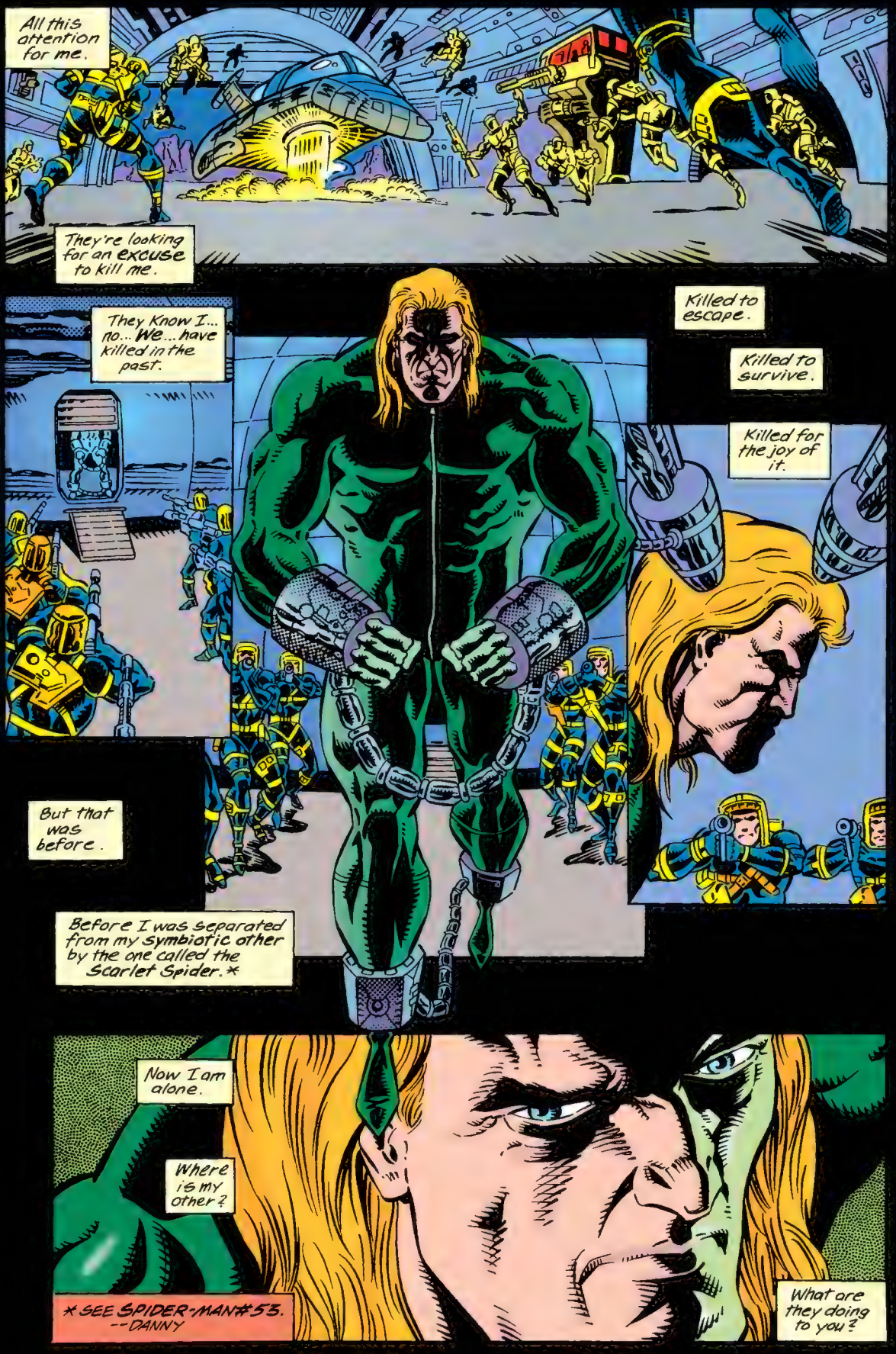
PREPARE FOR LANDING AND TRANSFER OF THE PRISONER TO RESEARCH FACILITY.

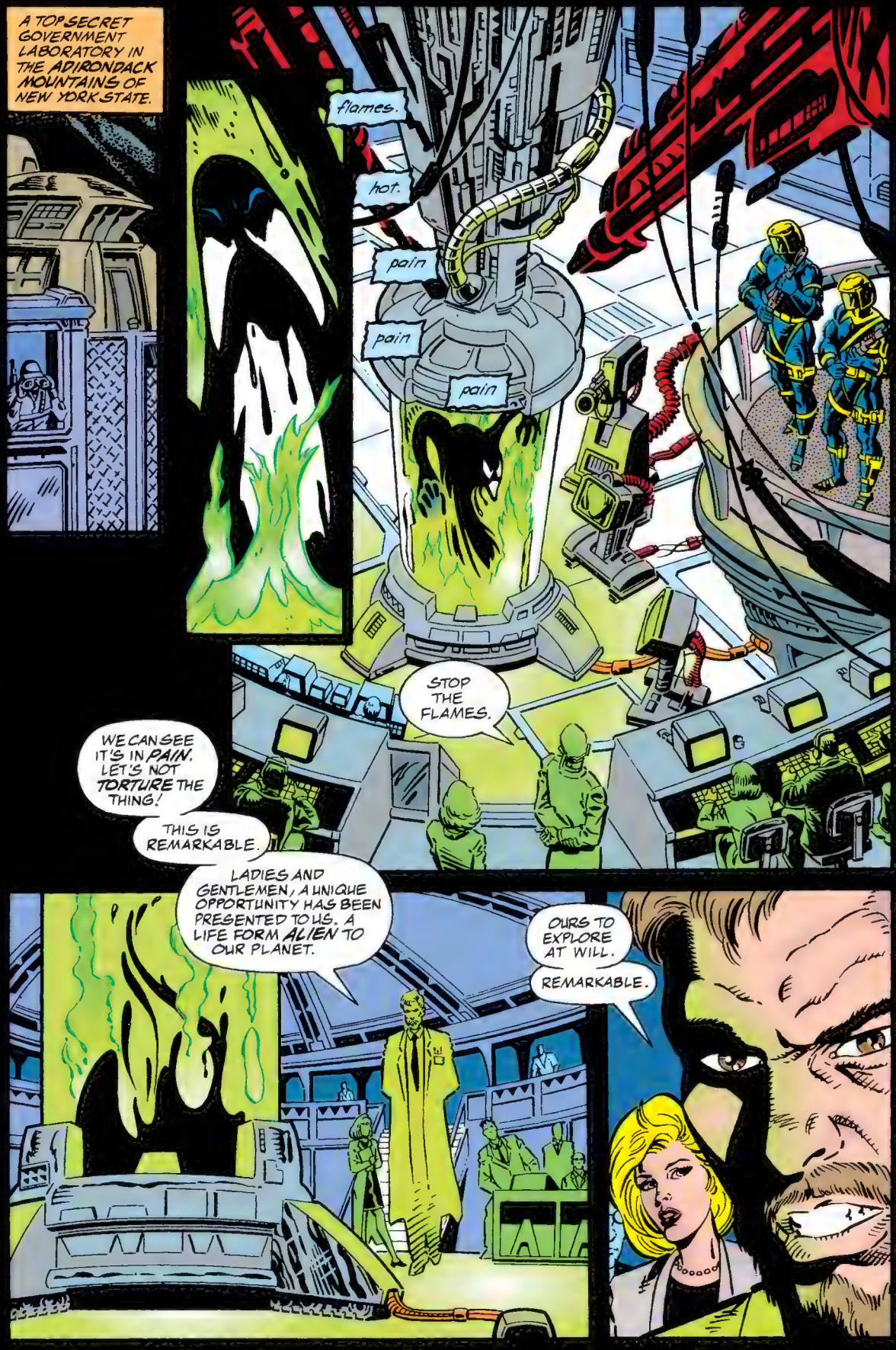
ON YOUR TOES PEOPLE. IF HE MAKES ONE WRONG MOVE, I WANT HIM SMOKED!

STAN LEE PRESENTS VENOM: SEPARATION ANXIETY PART I OF IV

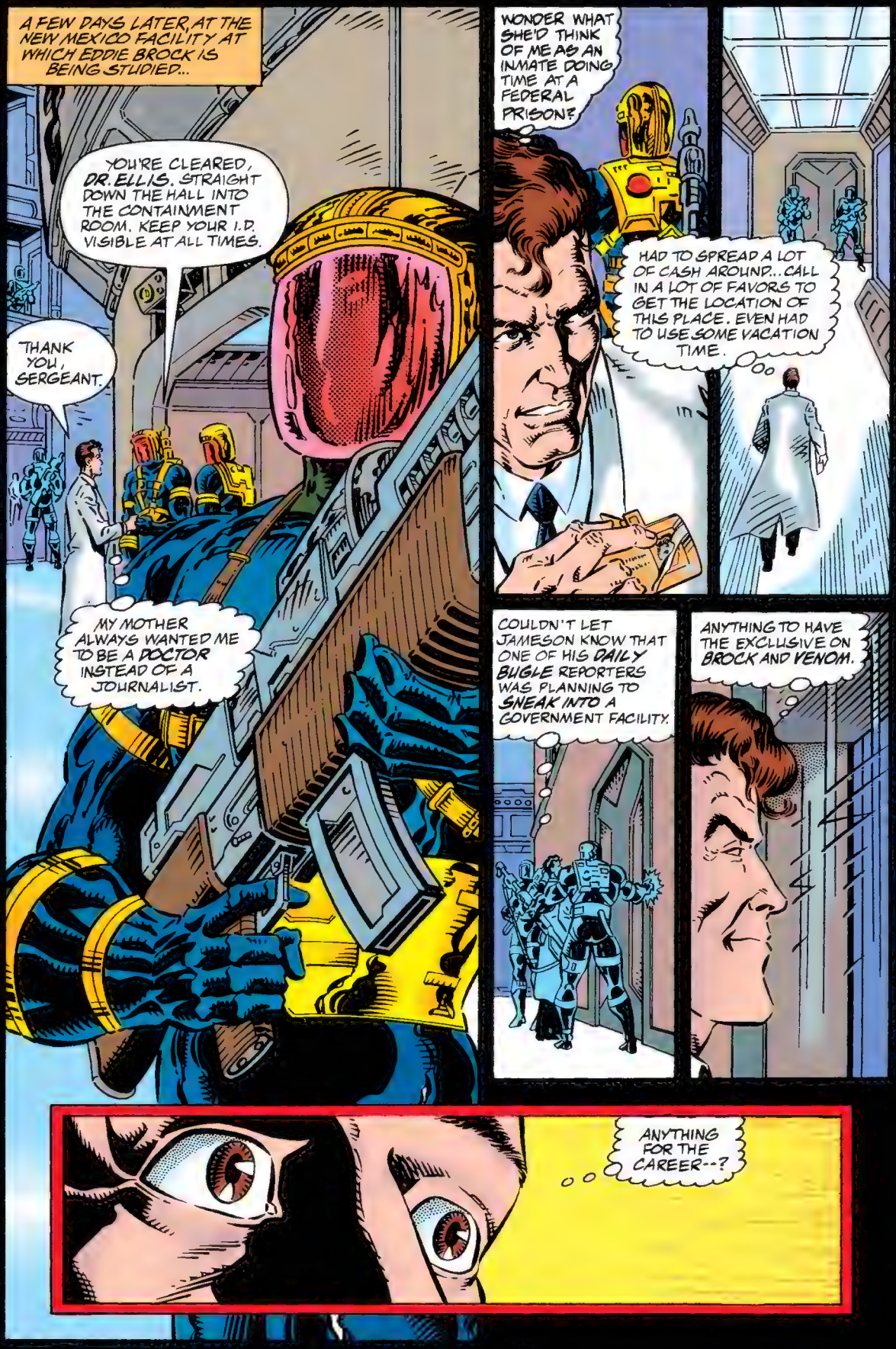
ABORT

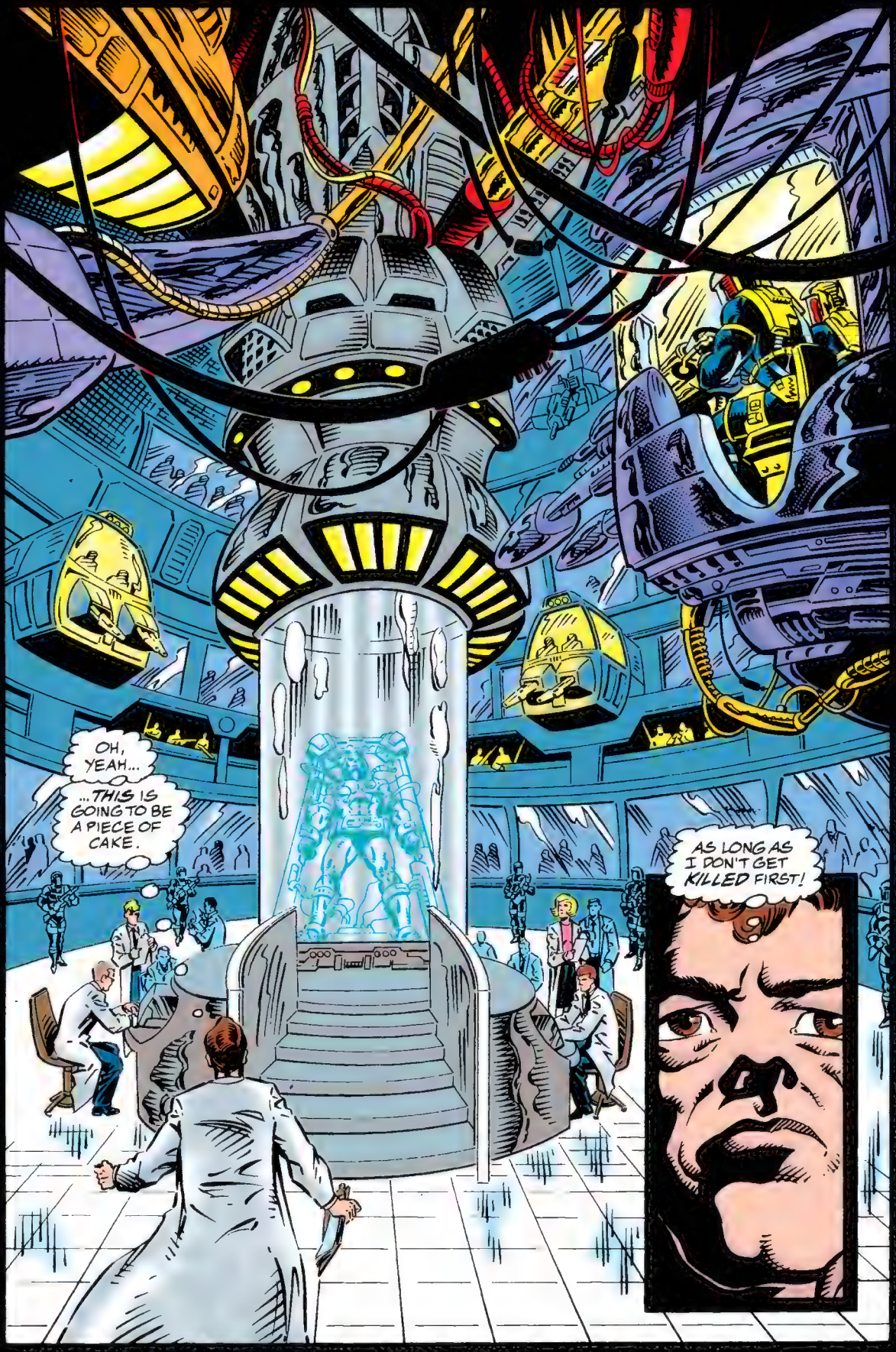
HOWARD MACKIE	RON RANDALL	SAM DELAROSA	KEN LOPEZ	TOM SMITH	DANNY FINGEROTH	TOM DEFALCO
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF


All this attention for me.
They're looking for an excuse to kill me.
They know I... no... We... have killed in the past.
Killed to escape.
Killed to survive.
Killed for the joy of it.
But that was before.
Before I was separated from my symbiotic other by the one called the Scarlet Spider.*
Now I am alone.
Where is my other?
What are they doing to you?
* SEE SPIDER-MAN #53. --DANNY


A TOP SECRET GOVERNMENT LABORATORY IN THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS OF NEW YORK STATE.
flames.
hot.
pain
pain
pain
STOP THE FLAMES.
WE CAN SEE IT'S IN PAIN. LET'S NOT TORTURE THE THING!
THIS IS REMARKABLE.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO US. A LIFE FORM ALIEN TO OUR PLANET.
OURS TO EXPLORE AT WILL.
REMARKABLE.

DR. ZWERLING--
--IT APPEARS TO BE STARING AT...
...YOU!
eddie
pain
escape
eddie
IT IS ATTEMPTING COMMUNICATION.
APPARENTLY IT MISSES ITS FORMER HOST.
TRULY REMARKABLE.


A FEW DAYS LATER, AT THE NEW MEXICO FACILITY AT WHICH EDDIE BROCK IS BEING STUDIED...
YOU'RE CLEARED, DR. ELLIS. STRAIGHT DOWN THE HALL INTO THE CONTAINMENT ROOM. KEEP YOUR I.D. VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES.
THANK YOU, SERGEANT.
MY MOTHER ALWAYS WANTED ME TO BE A DOCTOR INSTEAD OF A JOURNALIST.
WONDER WHAT SHE'D THINK OF ME AS AN INMATE DOING TIME AT A FEDERAL PRISON?
HAD TO SPREAD A LOT OF CASH AROUND... CALL IN A LOT OF FAVORS TO GET THE LOCATION OF THIS PLACE. EVEN HAD TO USE SOME VACATION TIME.
COULDN'T LET JAMESON KNOW THAT ONE OF HIS DAILY BUGLE REPORTERS WAS PLANNING TO SNEAK INTO A GOVERNMENT FACILITY.
ANYTHING TO HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE ON BROCK AND VENOM.
ANYTHING FOR THE CAREER--?


OH, YEAH...
...THIS IS GOING TO BE A PIECE OF CAKE.
AS LONG AS I DON'T GET KILLED FIRST!

The silence is the worst part.

No one will talk to me.

Not that I can blame them.

It's just that I haven't been really alone since...

...since the day I went to church...

...and was united with my other!

It was painful at first. I resisted, but then we discovered we had a common enemy...

...Spider-Man!

On that day, We became one.

We became Venom!

Ours was a single goal!

Kill Spider-Man at all costs.

All costs!

In our anger, we lashed out at all who stood in our way.

Policemen.

Federal guards.

Innocent bystanders.

All fell before our rage... our Venom!

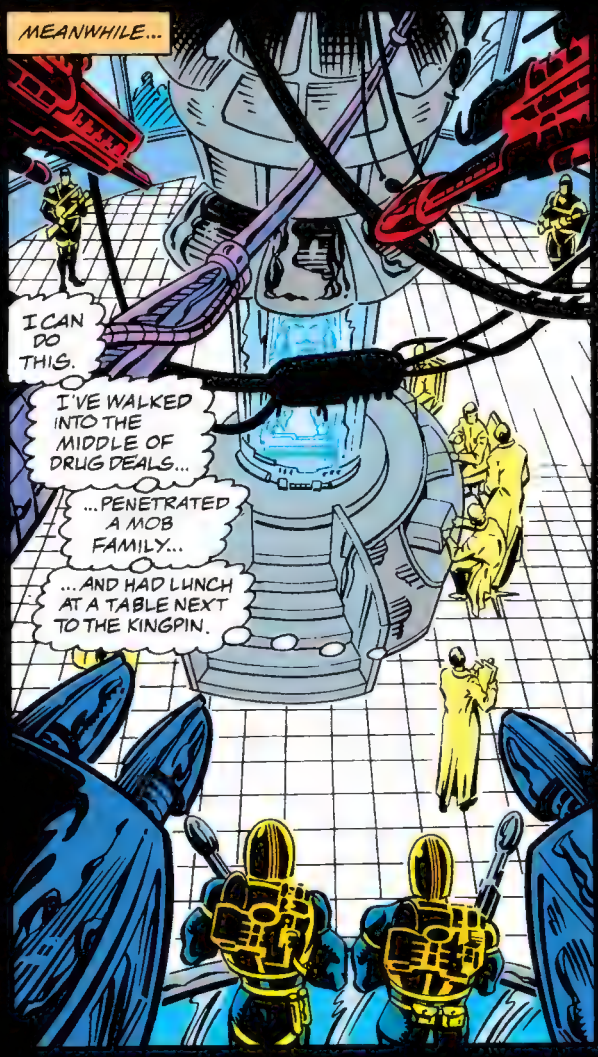
We... I... we... Killed...

Now I'm alone with my sins.

Alone to ask myself...

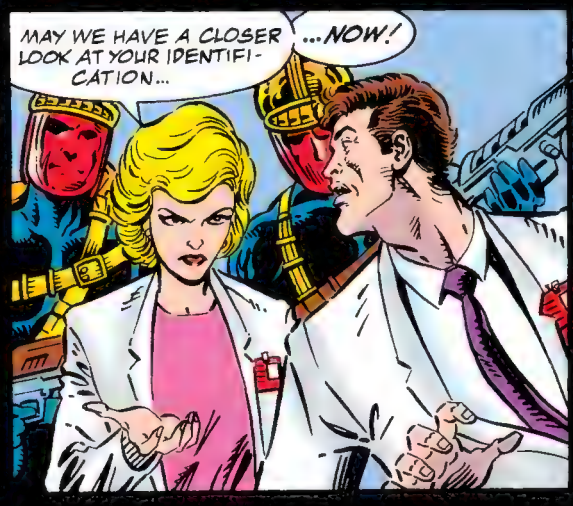
WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT HAVE I BECOME?

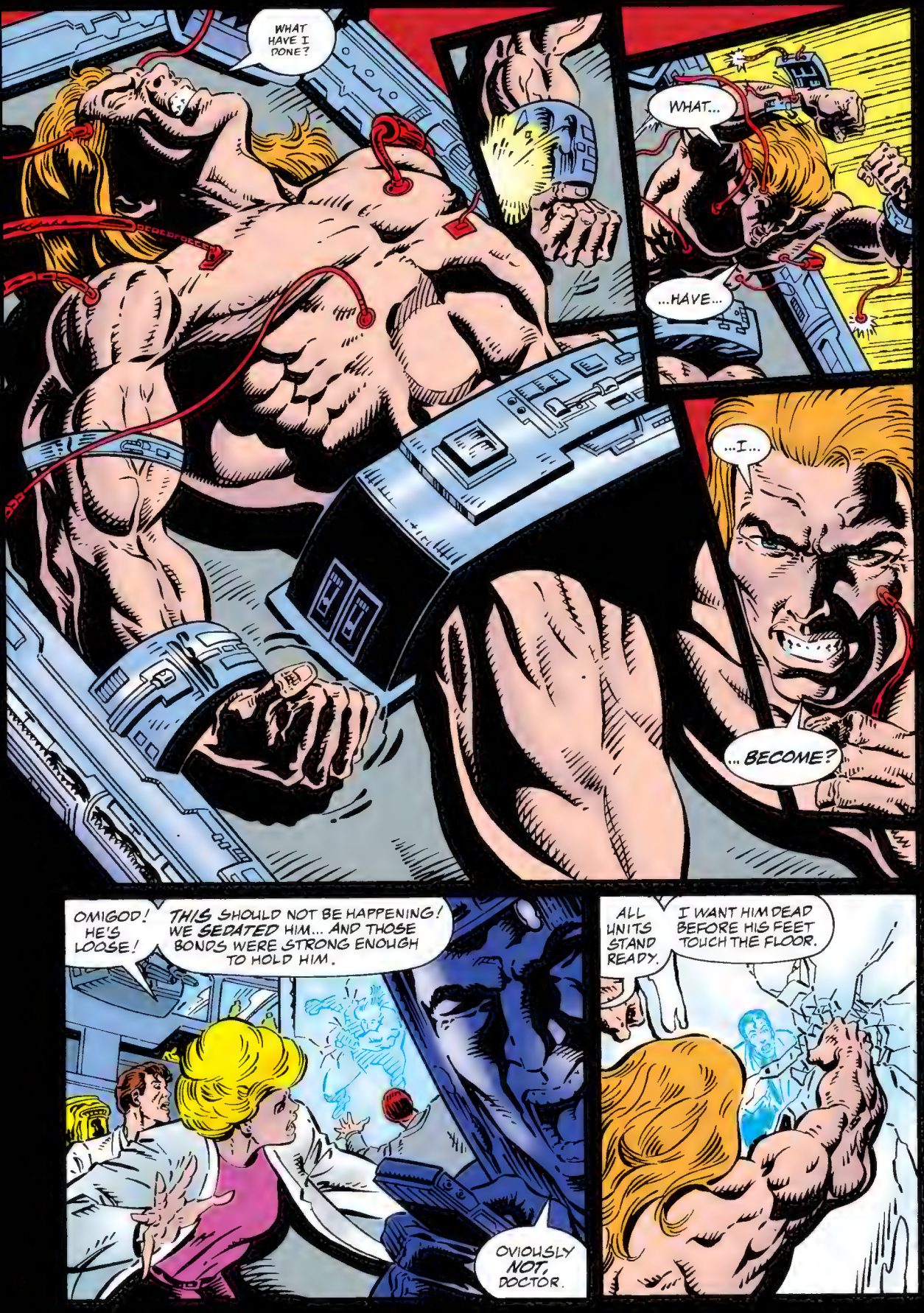
AT THAT MOMENT...
escape
pain
eddie
parker
doctor
escape
escape
escape

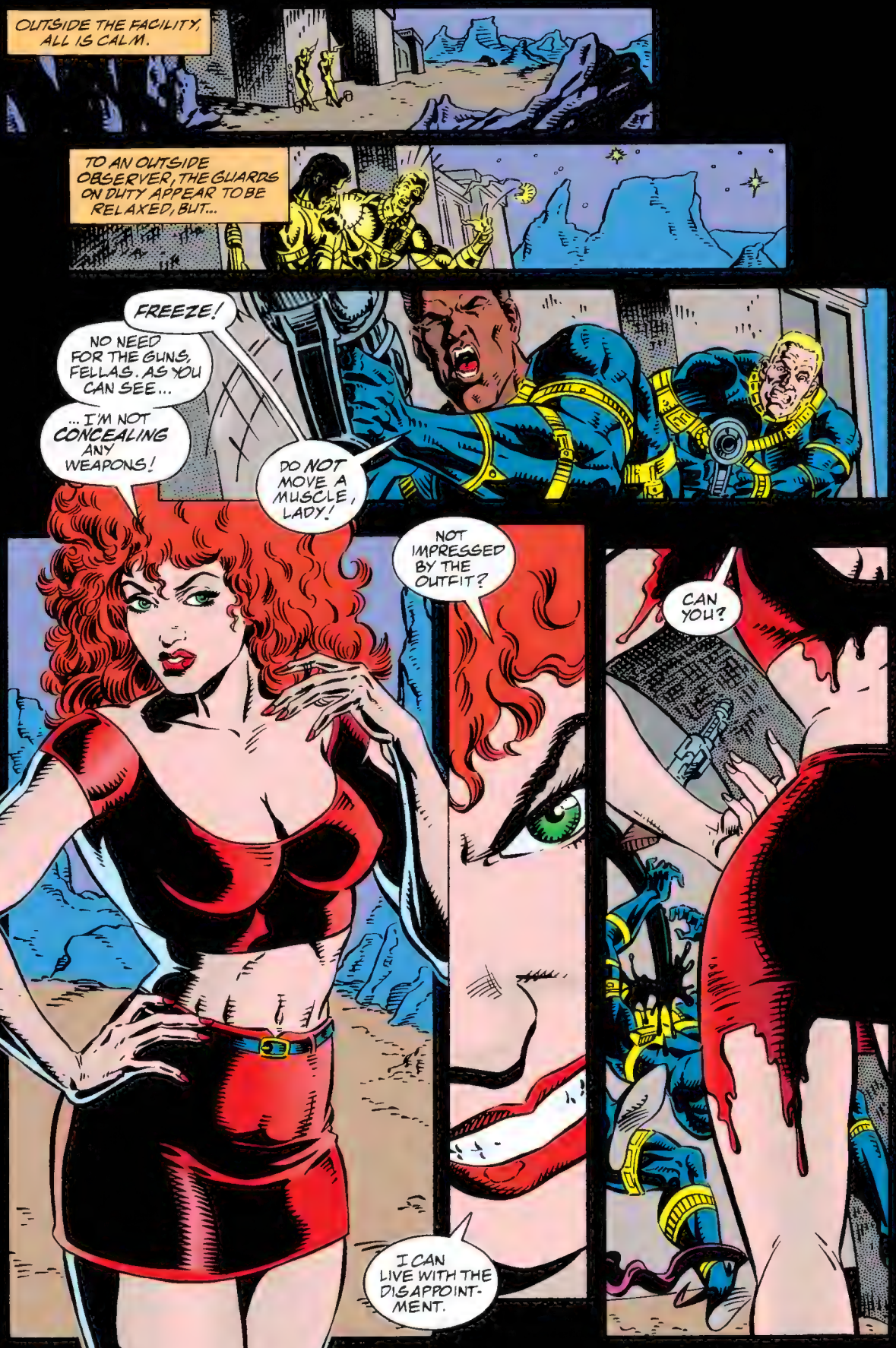

MEANWHILE...
I CAN DO THIS.
I'VE WALKED INTO THE MIDDLE OF DRUG DEALS...
...PENETRATED A MOB FAMILY...
...AND HAD LUNCH AT A TABLE NEXT TO THE KINGPIN.

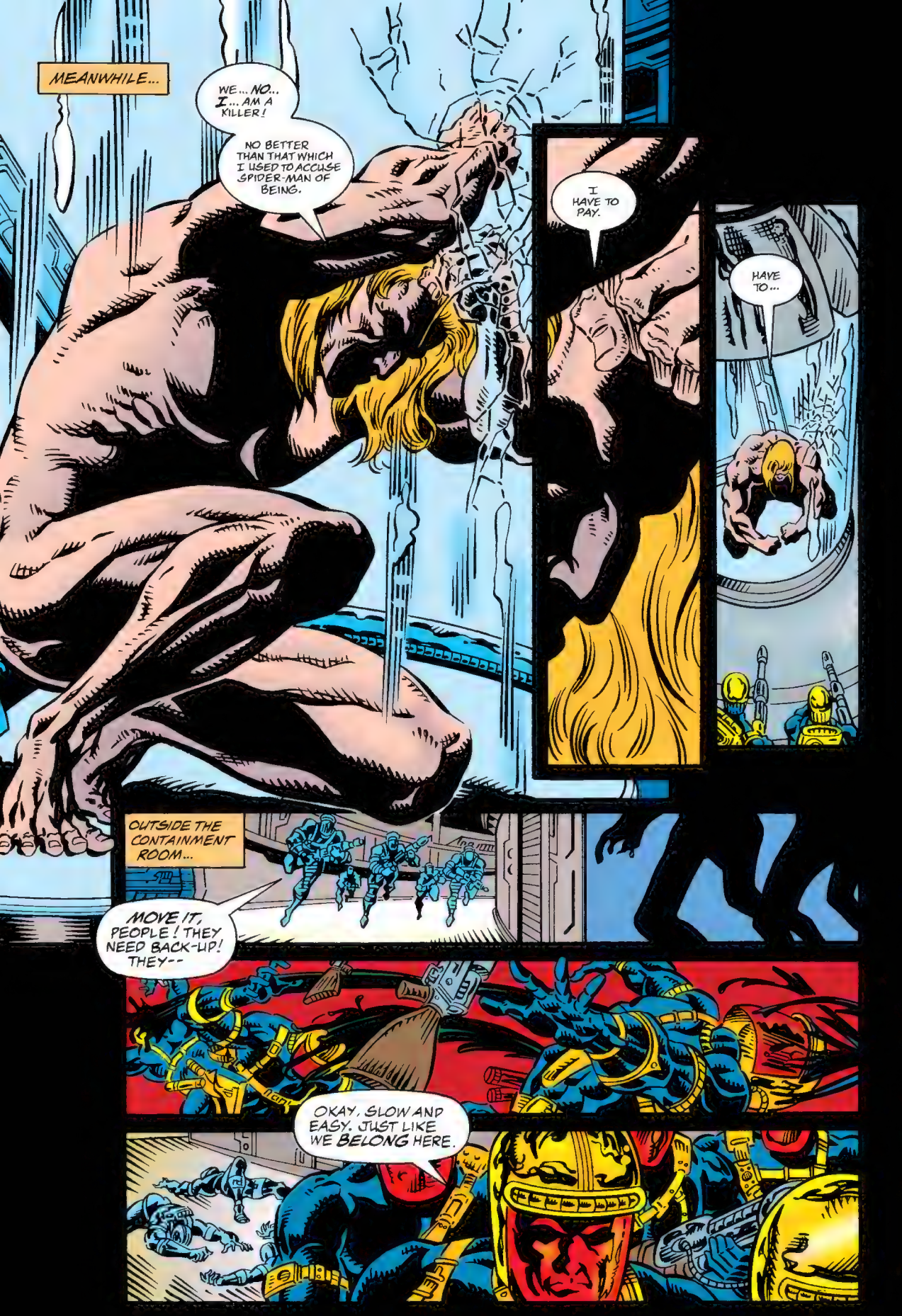
IT'S ALL IN MAKING IT LOOK LIKE YOU BELONG--
--BELIEVING THAT YOU BELONG--!

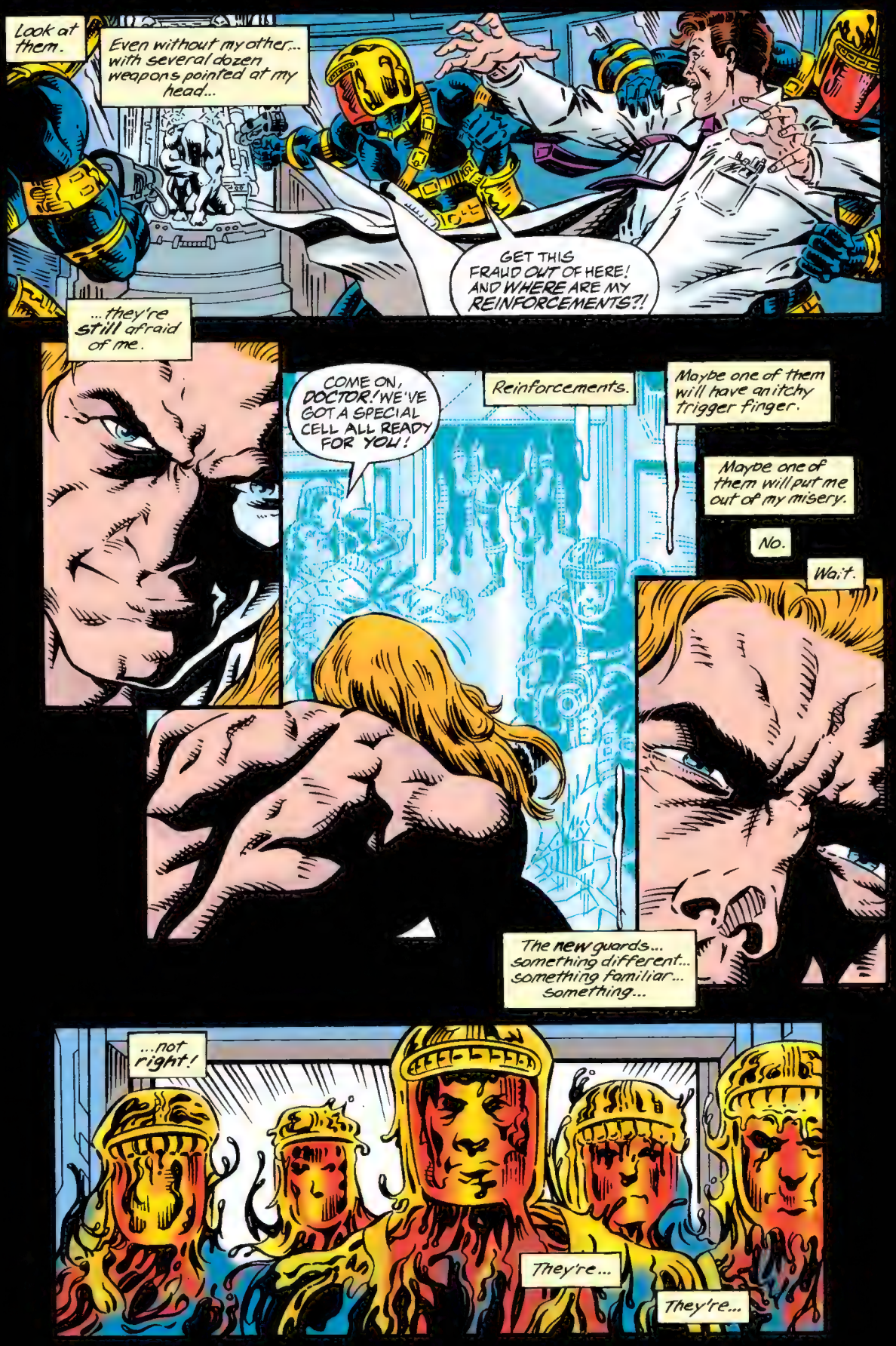
EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR ELLIS!

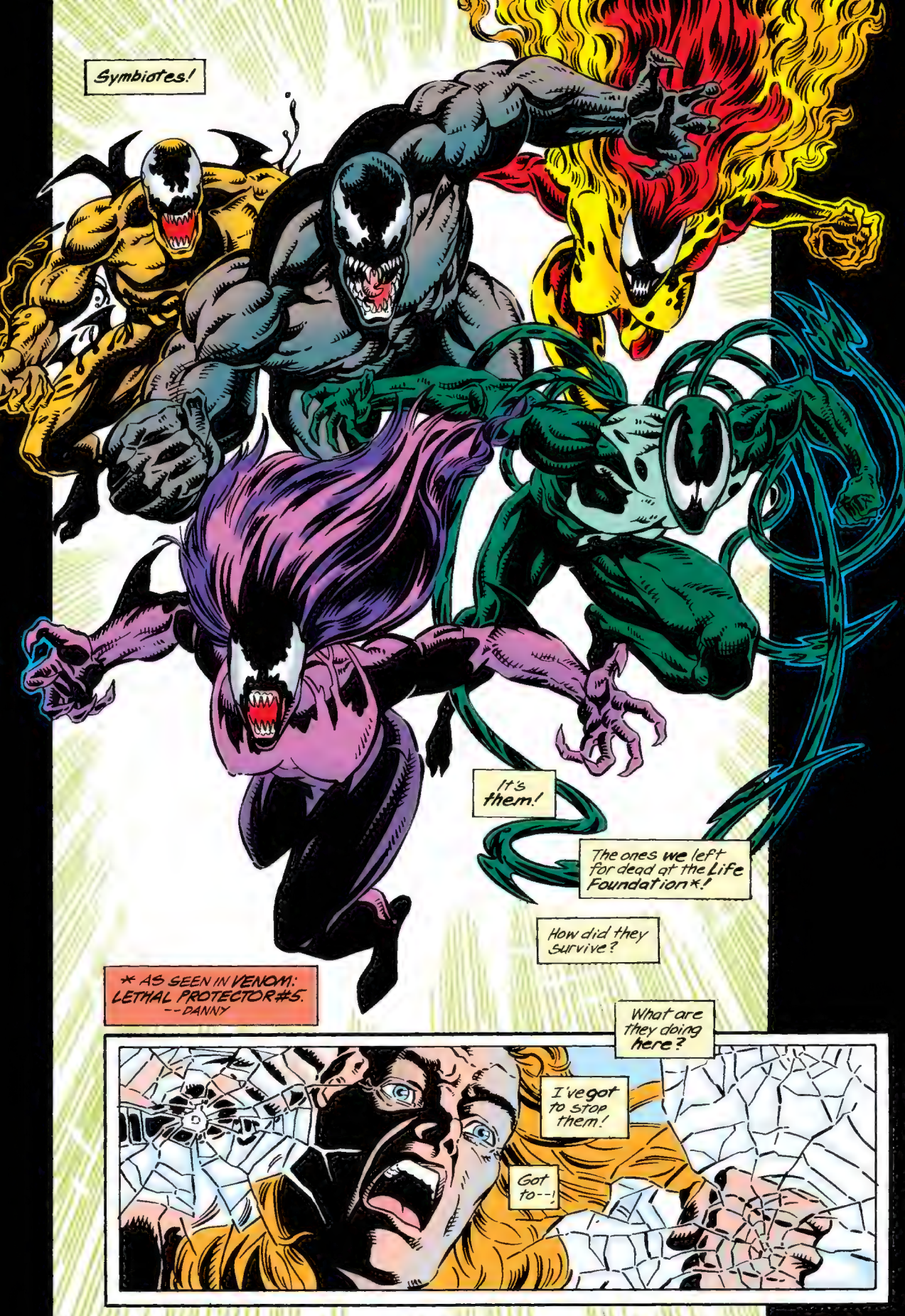

MAY WE HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR IDENTIFI-CATION...
...NOW!


WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT...
...HAVE...
...I...
...BECOME?
OMIGOD! HE'S LOOSE!
THIS SHOULD NOT BE HAPPENING! WE SEDATED HIM... AND THOSE BONDS WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD HIM.
OVIOUSLY NOT, DOCTOR.
ALL UNITS STAND READY.
I WANT HIM DEAD BEFORE HIS FEET TOUCH THE FLOOR.

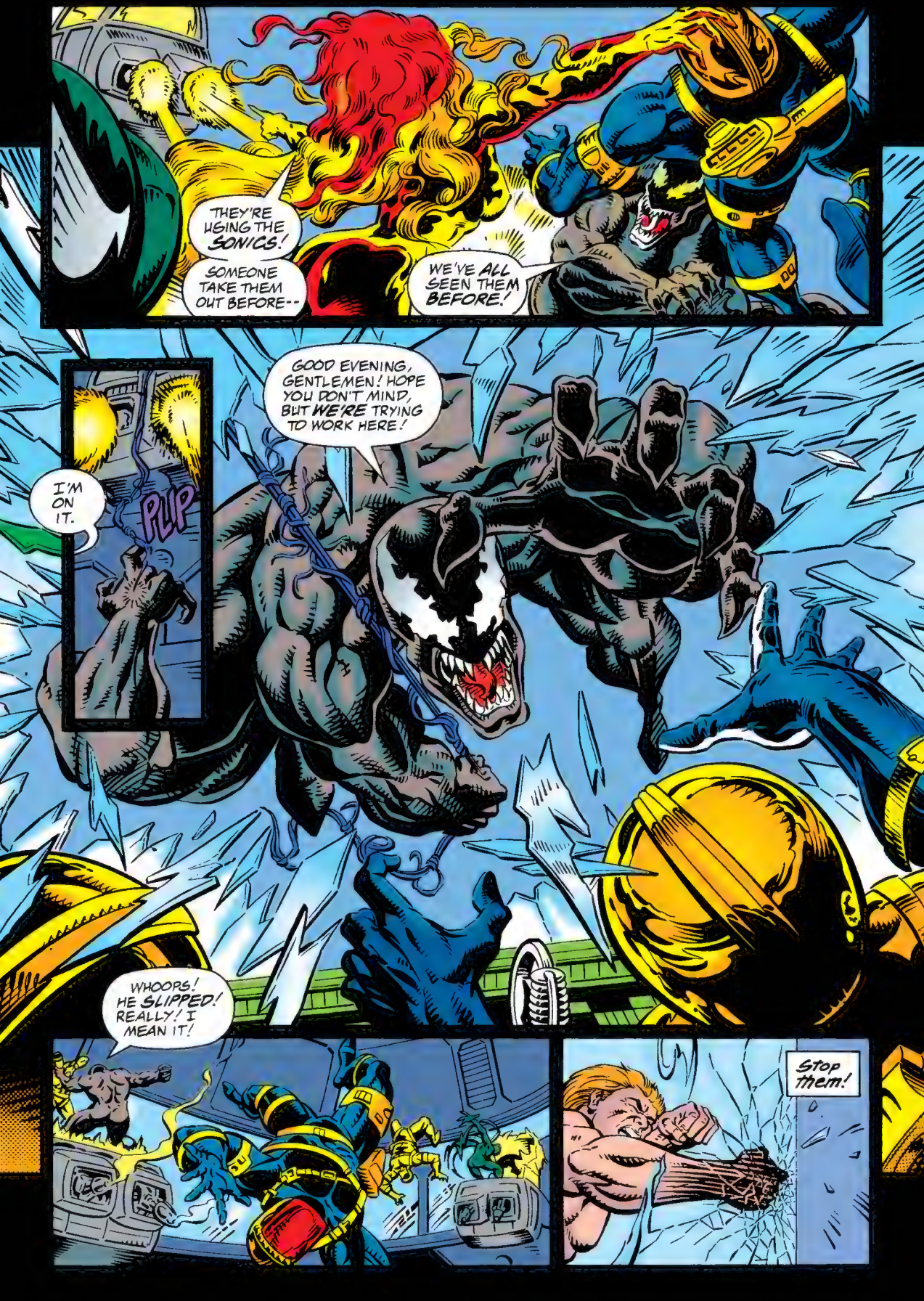

OUTSIDE THE FACILITY, ALL IS CALM.
TO AN OUTSIDE OBSERVER, THE GUARDS ON DUTY APPEAR TO BE RELAXED, BUT...
FREEZE!
NO NEED FOR THE GUNS, FELLAS. AS YOU CAN SEE...
... I'M NOT CONCEALING ANY WEAPONS!
DO NOT MOVE A MUSCLE, LADY!
NOT IMPRESSED BY THE OUTFIT?
I CAN LIVE WITH THE DISAPPOINT-MENT.
CAN YOU?

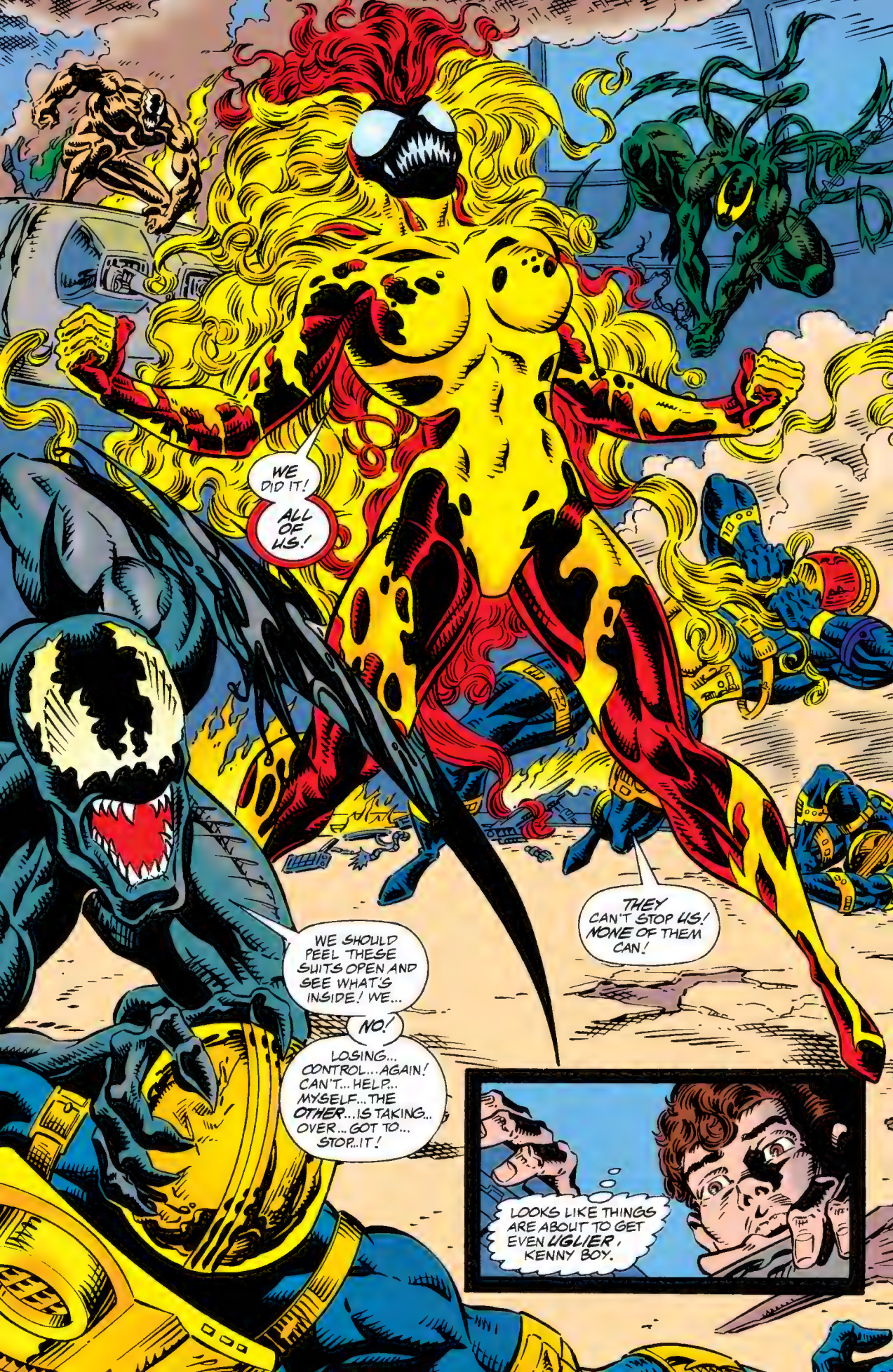

MEANWHILE...
WE... NO... I... AM A KILLER!
NO BETTER THAN THAT WHICH I USED TO ACCUSE SPIDER-MAN OF BEING.
I HAVE TO PAY.
HAVE TO...
OUTSIDE THE CONTAINMENT ROOM...
MOVE IT, PEOPLE! THEY NEED BACK-UP! THEY--
OKAY. SLOW AND EASY. JUST LIKE WE BELONG HERE.


Look at them.
Even without my other... with several dozen weapons pointed at my head...
GET THIS FRAUD OUT OF HERE! AND WHERE ARE MY REINFORCEMENTS?!
...they're still afraid of me.
COME ON, DOCTOR! WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL CELL ALL READY FOR YOU!
Reinforcements.
Maybe one of them will have an itchy trigger finger.
Maybe one of them will put me out of my misery.
No.
Wait.
The new guards... something different... something familiar... something...
...not right!
They're...
They're...

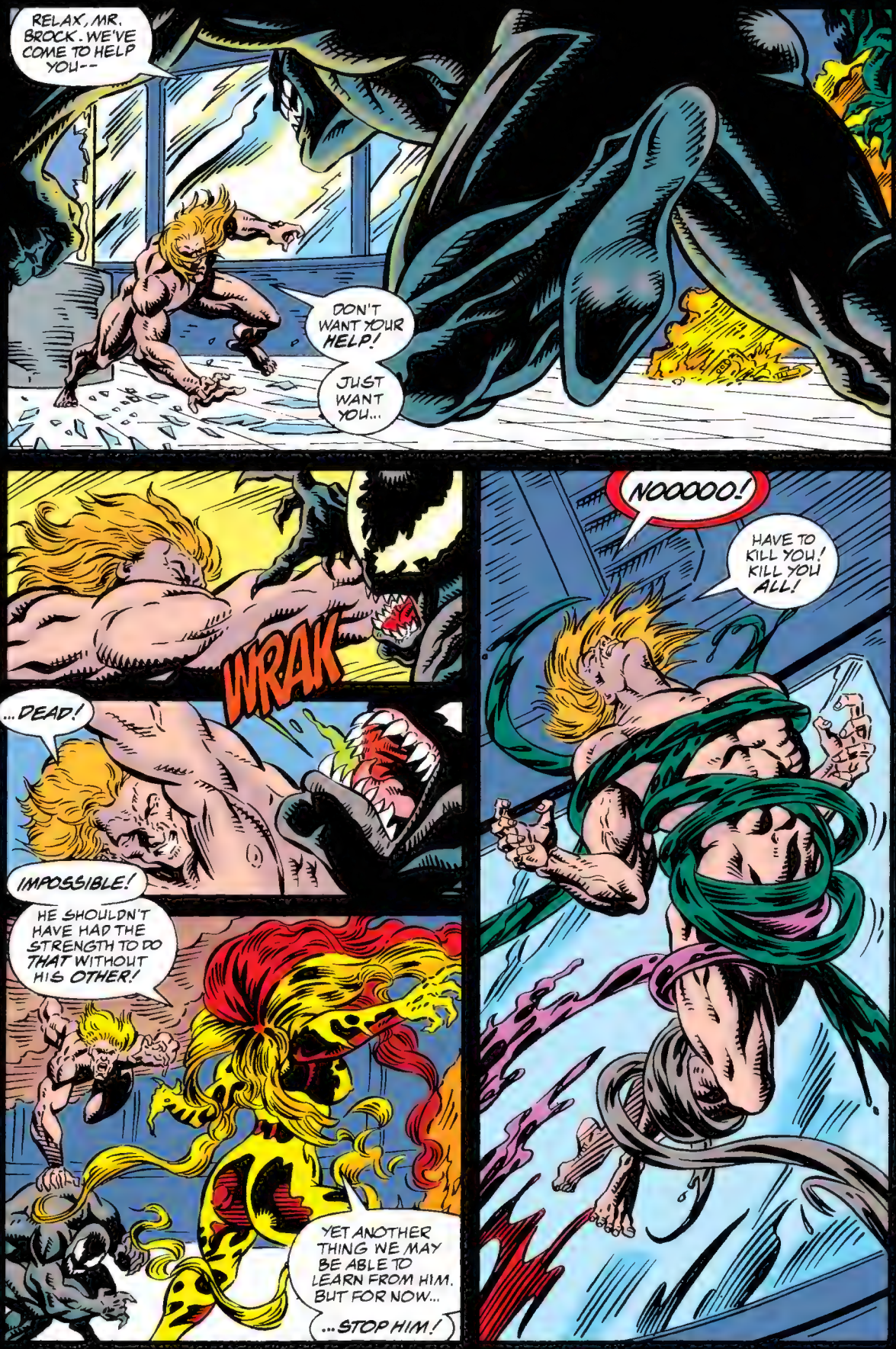

Symbiotes!
It's them!
The ones we left for dead at the Life Foundation*!
How did they survive?
* AS SEEN IN VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #5. --DANNY
What are they doing here?
I've got to stop them!
Got to--!

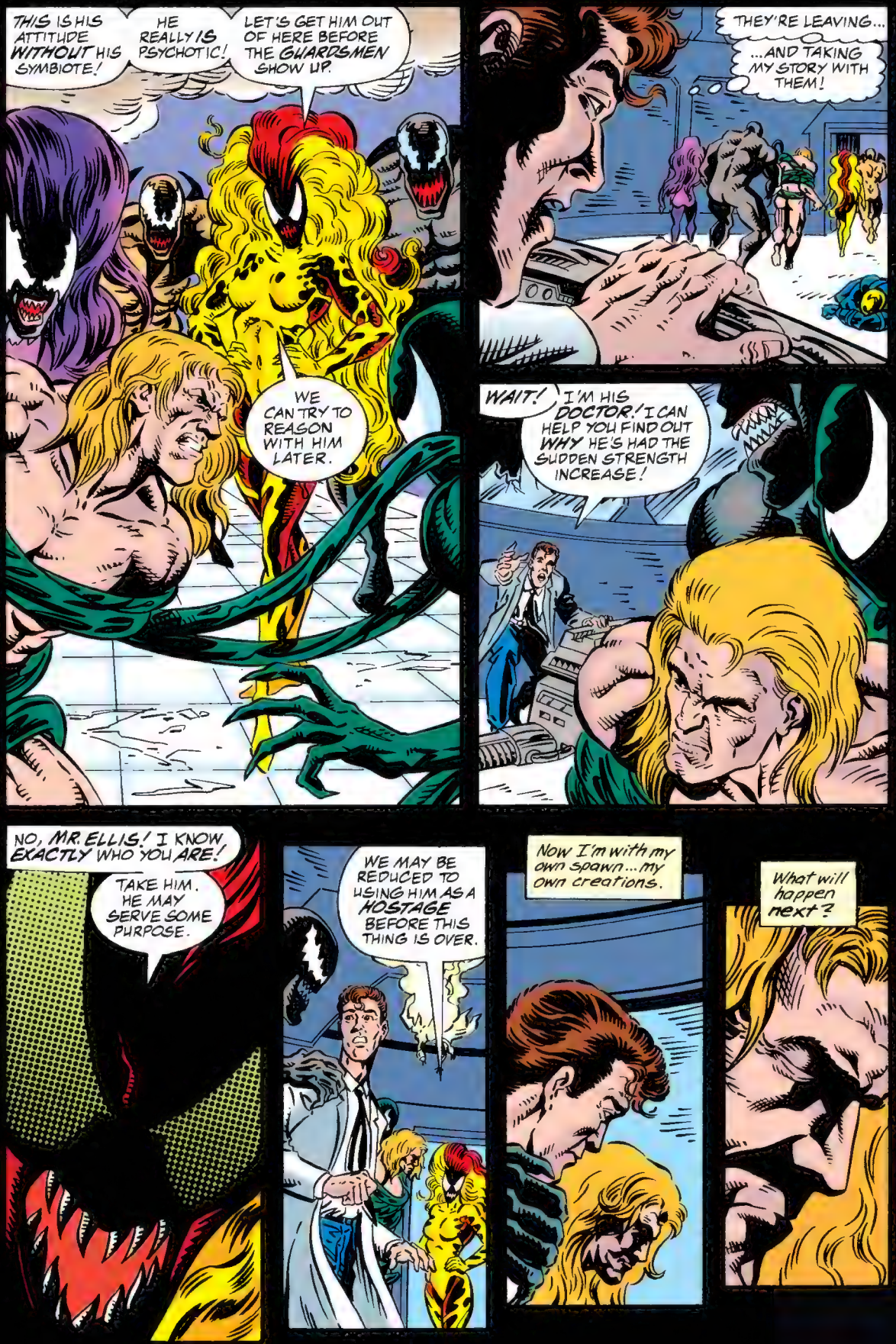
WE SURPRISED THEM! WE REALLY SURPRISED THEM!
GOT TO DESTROY THEIR WEAPONS BEFORE THEY CAN TURN THEM ON US!
HURT THEM, BUT DON'T KILL THEM. LIKE THEY'D GIVE US THE SAME CONSIDERATION!
GUESS THAT MAKES US BETTER THAN THEM, DON'T IT?
EAT YOUR HEART OUT, URICH!
THIS IS MORE THAN EVEN I BARGAINED FOR!
BUT WHAT AN INSIDE STORY TO HAVE!
Got to stop them!


THEY'RE USING THE SONICS!
SOMEONE TAKE THEM OUT BEFORE--
WE'VE ALL SEEN THEM BEFORE!
GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN! HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT WE'RE TRYING TO WORK HERE!
I'M ON IT.
PLIP
WHOOPS! HE SLIPPED! REALLY! I MEAN IT!
Stop them!

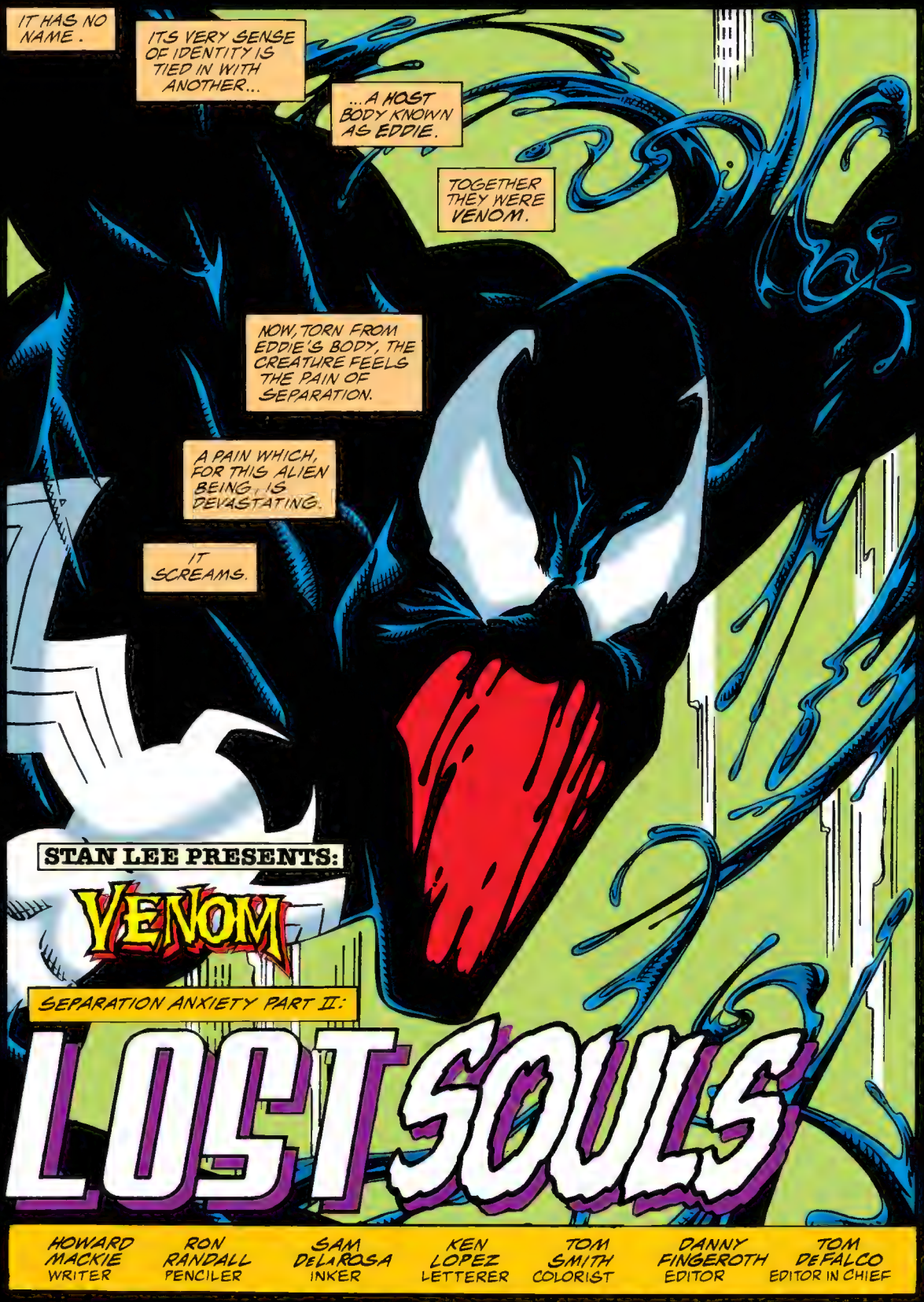

WE DID IT!
ALL OF US!
THEY CAN'T STOP US! NONE OF THEM CAN!
WE SHOULD PEEL THESE SUITS OPEN AND SEE WHAT'S INSIDE! WE...
NO!
LOSING... CONTROL... AGAIN! CAN'T... HELP... MYSELF... THE OTHER... IS TAKING... OVER... GOT TO... STOP... IT!
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET EVEN UGLIER, KENNY BOY.

GET A GRIP! REGAIN CONTROL!
WHY?
OUR OTHERS GIVE US STRENGTH! STRENGTH TO DO WHATEVER WE PLEASE--
STOP!
WE'VE GOT TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF OURSELVES! OTHERWISE WE ARE NO BETTER THAN--
KTASH
--HIM!


RELAX, MR. BROCK. WE'VE COME TO HELP YOU--
DON'T WANT YOUR HELP!
JUST WANT YOU...
WRAK
...DEAD!
IMPOSSIBLE!
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE STRENGTH TO DO THAT WITHOUT HIS OTHER!
YET ANOTHER THING WE MAY BE ABLE TO LEARN FROM HIM. BUT FOR NOW...
...STOP HIM!
NOOOOO!
HAVE TO KILL YOU! KILL YOU ALL!


THIS IS HIS ATTITUDE WITHOUT HIS SYMBIOTE!
HE REALLY IS PSYCHOTIC!
LET'S GET HIM OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE GUARDSMEN SHOW UP.
WE CAN TRY TO REASON WITH HIM LATER.
THEY'RE LEAVING...
...AND TAKING MY STORY WITH THEM!
WAIT!
I'M HIS DOCTOR! I CAN HELP YOU FIND OUT WHY HE'S HAD THE SUDDEN STRENGTH INCREASE!
NO, MR. ELLIS! I KNOW EXACTLY WHO YOU ARE!
TAKE HIM. HE MAY SERVE SOME PURPOSE.
WE MAY BE REDUCED TO USING HIM AS A HOSTAGE BEFORE THIS THING IS OVER.
Now I'm with my own spawn... my own creations.
What will happen next?

MARVEL COMICS
2
JAN
VENOM
SEPARATION ANXIETY
PART 2 OF 4
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A SYMBIOTE UNLEASHED!
RANDALL DELAROSA
BUT WHERE IS EDDIE BROCK?


IT HAS NO NAME.
ITS VERY SENSE OF IDENTITY IS TIED IN WITH ANOTHER...
...A HOST BODY KNOWN AS EDDIE.
TOGETHER THEY WERE VENOM.
NOW, TORN FROM EDDIE'S BODY, THE CREATURE FEELS THE PAIN OF SEPARATION.
A PAIN WHICH, FOR THIS ALIEN BEING, IS DEVASTATING.
IT SCREAMS.
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
VENOM
SEPARATION ANXIETY PART II:
LOST SOULS

HOWARD MACKIE	RON RANDALL	SAM DELAROSA	KEN LOPEZ	TOM SMITH	DANNY FINGEROTH	TOM DEFALCO
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE SCREAM, THOUGH JUST BELOW THE RANGE OF HUMAN HEARING, IS CARRIED THROUGH THE HALLS OF THE TOP SECRET RESEARCH FACILITY...

...AND TO THE SURROUNDING COMPOUND WHERE GUARDS ALL BECOME UNEASILY ALERT AS THE SCREAM CHILLS THEM TO THE BONE.

BACK INSIDE, DR. EDMUND ZWERLING WATCHES ON, CALMLY AND CLINICALLY...

FASCINATING.

APPARENTLY, THE CREATURE MISSES ITS HOST.

IT SHOULD HAVE NO MEANS OF GENERATING SUCH A SOUND AND YET...

SIMPLY FASCINATING.

ONE MUST WONDER WHAT OTHER SURPRISES IT MIGHT HAVE IN STORE FOR US

search

find

escape

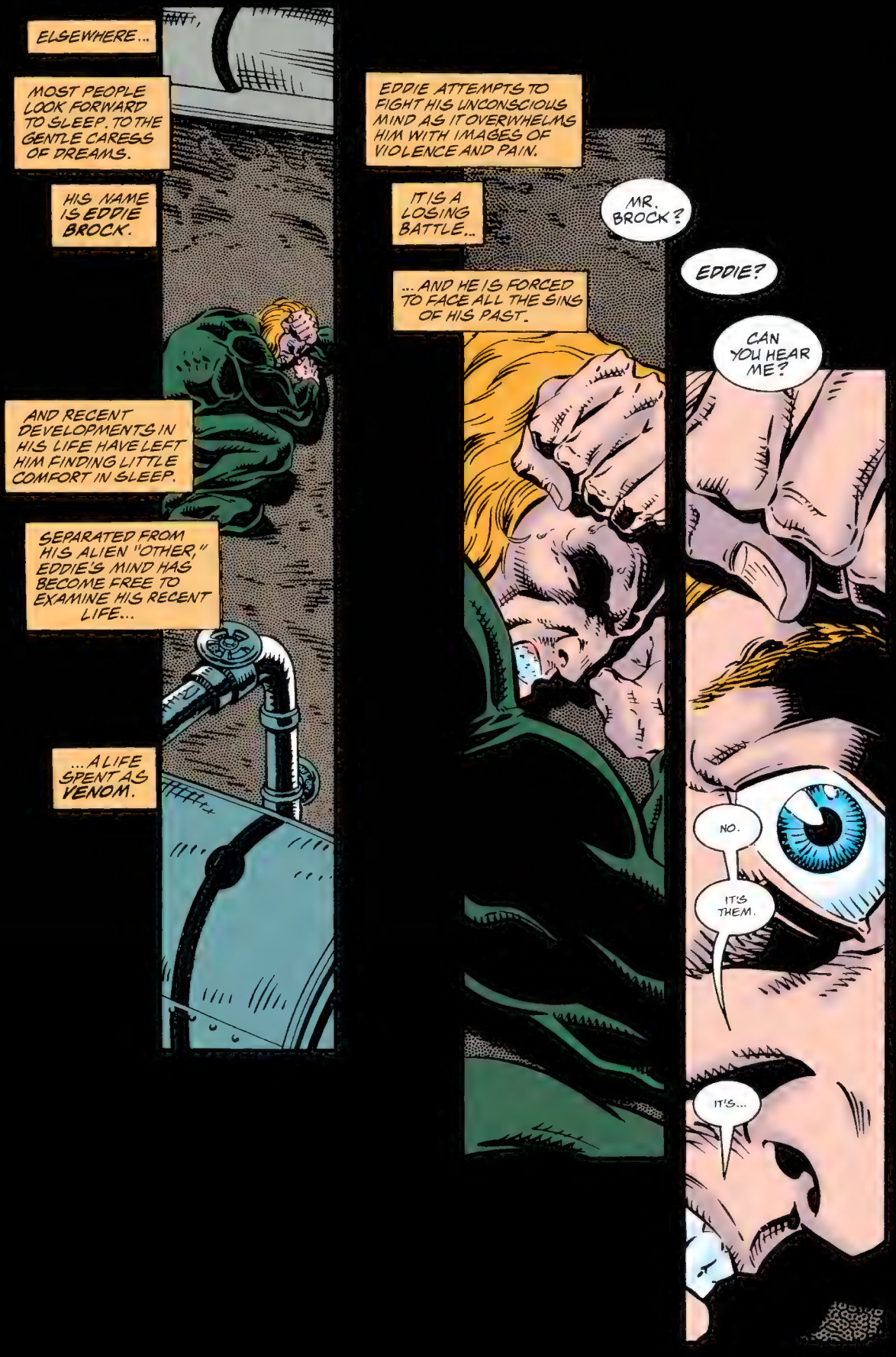
escape

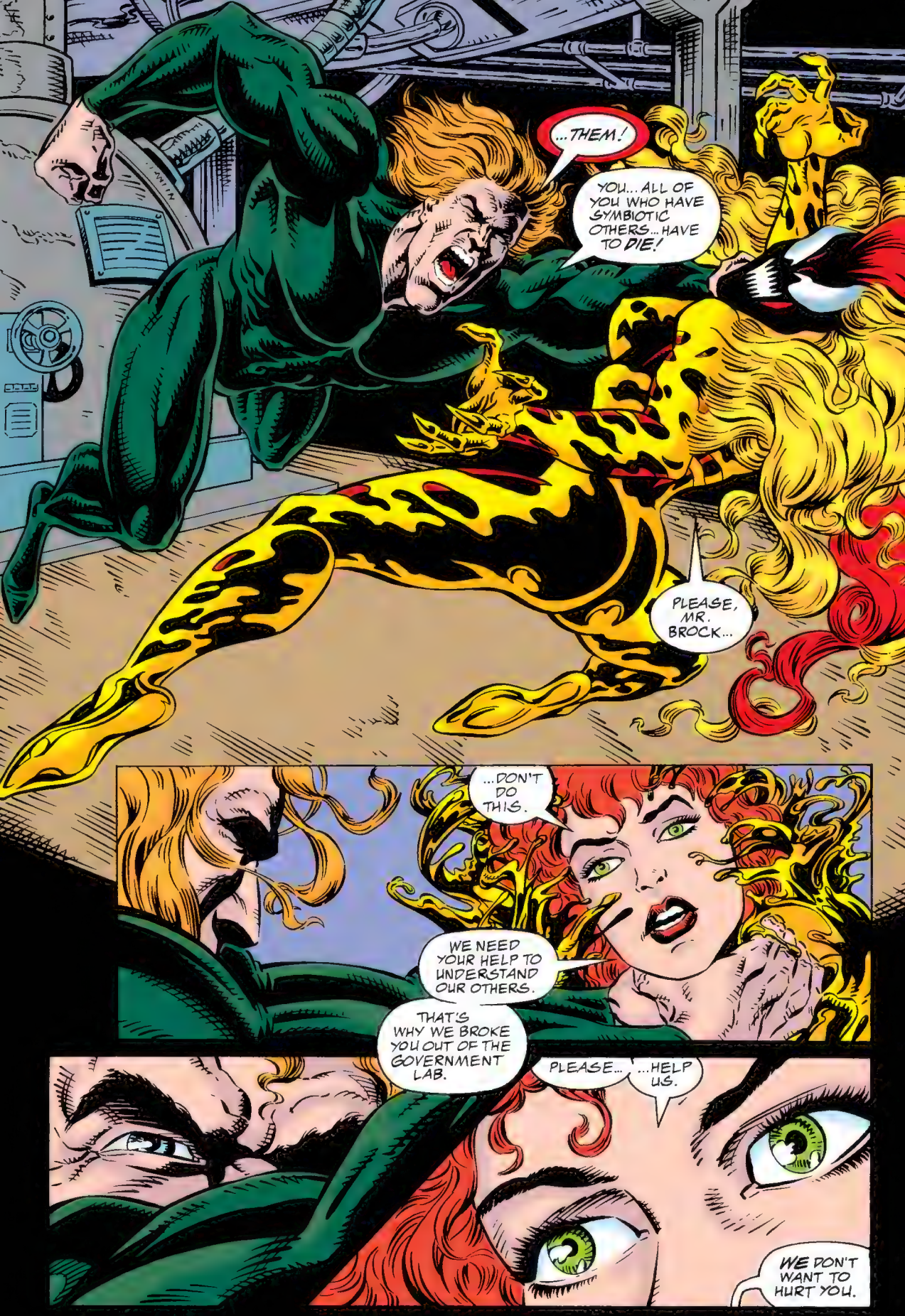
eddie

escape

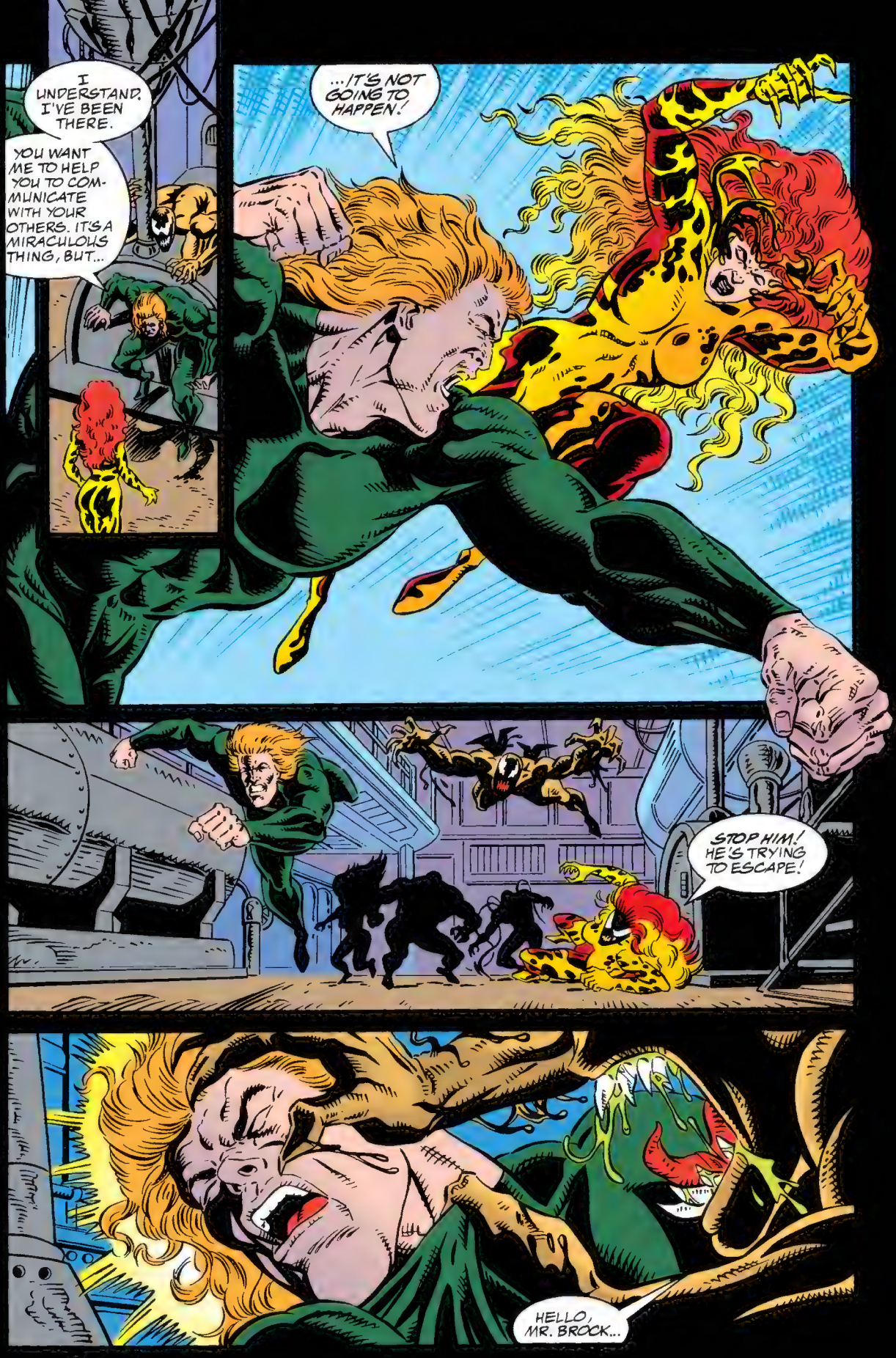
escape

escape

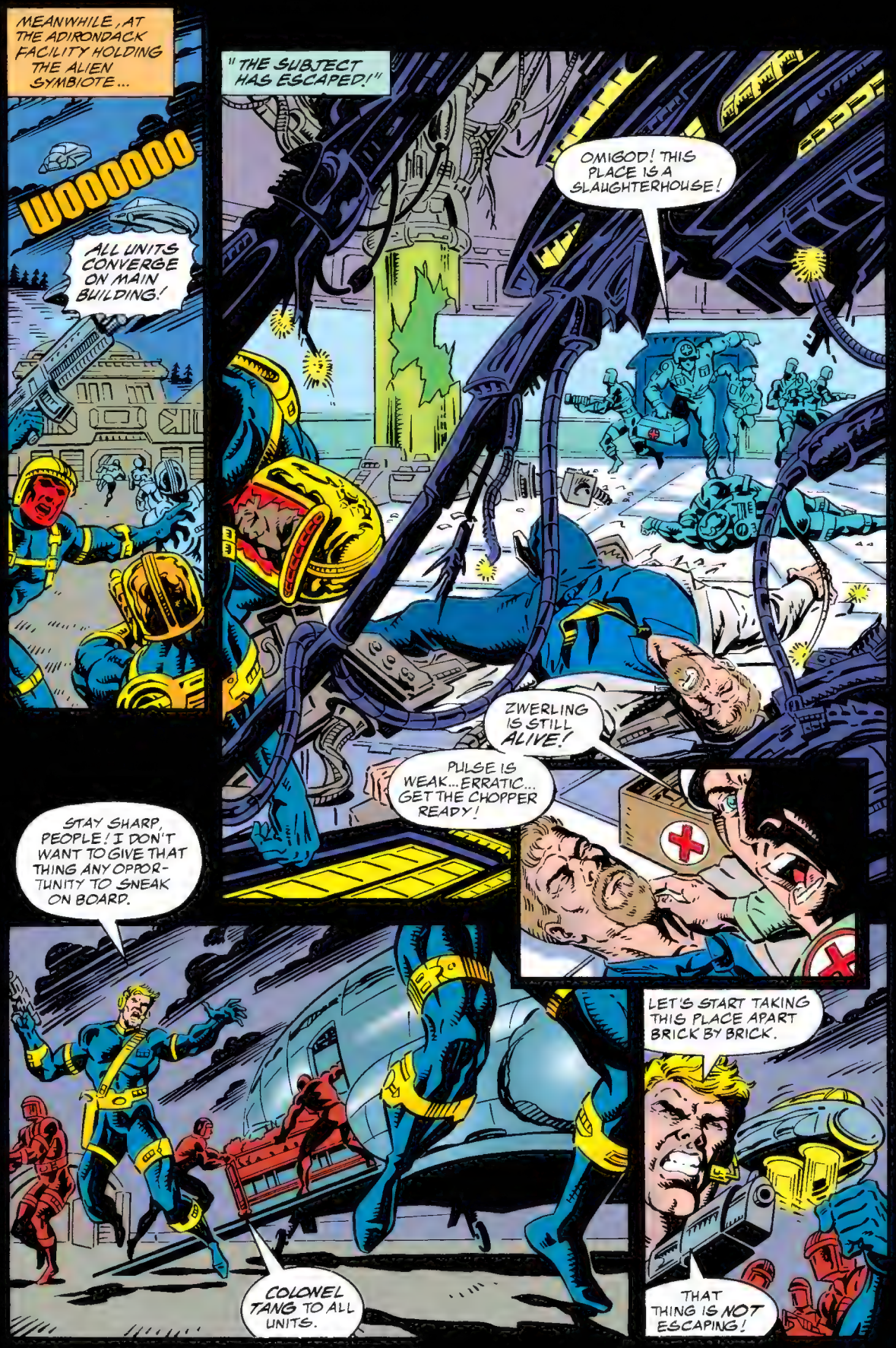

ELSEWHERE...
MOST PEOPLE LOOK FORWARD TO SLEEP. TO THE GENTLE CARESS OF DREAMS.
HIS NAME IS EDDIE BROCK.
AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS LIFE HAVE LEFT HIM FINDING LITTLE COMFORT IN SLEEP.
SEPARATED FROM HIS ALIEN "OTHER," EDDIE'S MIND HAS BECOME FREE TO EXAMINE HIS RECENT LIFE...
...A LIFE SPENT AS VENOM.
EDDIE ATTEMPTS TO FIGHT HIS UNCONSCIOUS MIND AS IT OVERWHELMS HIM WITH IMAGES OF VIOLENCE AND PAIN.
IT IS A LOSING BATTLE...
...AND HE IS FORCED TO FACE ALL THE SINS OF HIS PAST.
MR. BROCK?
EDDIE?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
NO.
IT'S THEM.
IT'S...

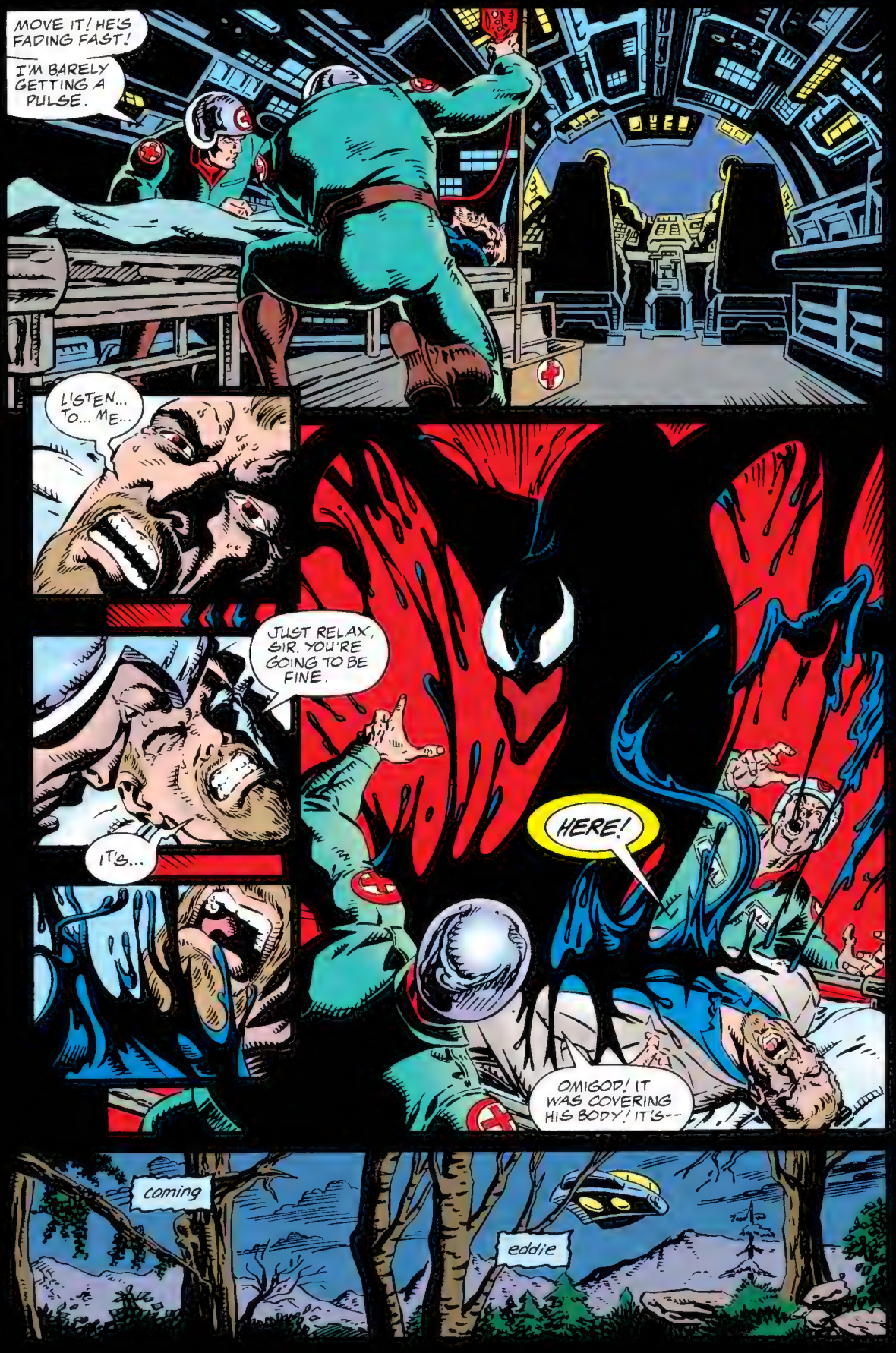

...THEM!
YOU... ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE SYMBIOTIC OTHERS... HAVE TO DIE!
PLEASE, MR. BROCK...
...DON'T DO THIS.
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO UNDERSTAND OUR OTHERS.
THAT'S WHY WE BROKE YOU OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT LAB.
PLEASE...
...HELP US.
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

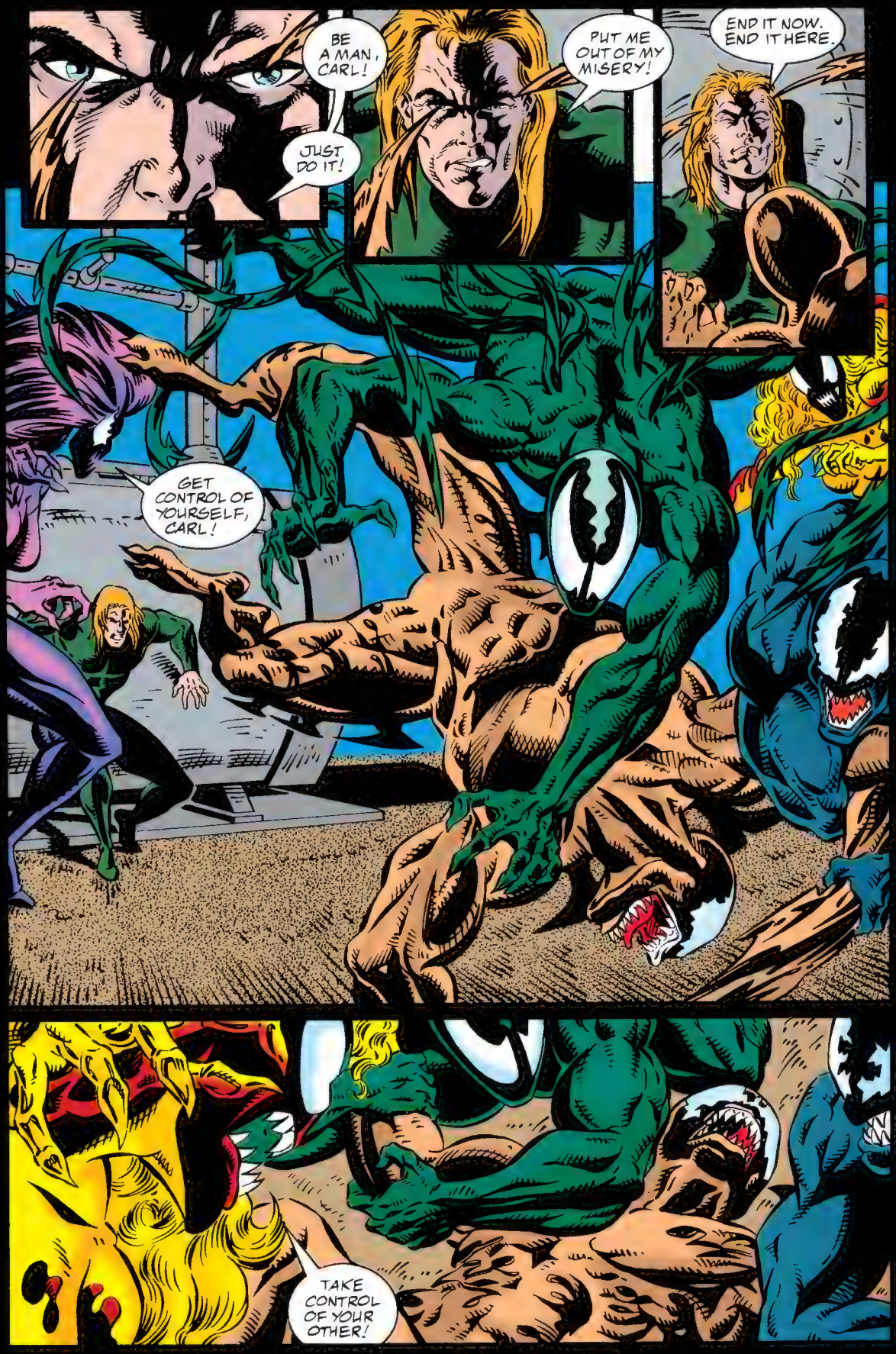
DON'T WANT TO HURT ME, HUH?
YOU SURE YOUR FRIENDS ALL AGREE?
DON'T BOTHER ANSWERING...
...I DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
I NEVER WANTED TO HURT ANYONE EITHER.
SOMEHOW I ALWAYS DID HURT THEM.
LEAVE ME ALONE. I CAN'T HELP YOU. MY OTHER IS GONE.
WE'RE DESPERATE, MR. BROCK.
I TRIED TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP BACK IN NEW YORK... BEFORE YOU GOT CAPTURED*.
PLEASE.
WE ARE DECENT PEOPLE, MR. BROCK. WE REALLY ARE.
*SEE SPIDER-MAN #'S 52-53 AND WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #'S 118-119. --DANNY


I UNDERSTAND. I'VE BEEN THERE.
YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR OTHERS. IT'S A MIRACULOUS THING, BUT...
...IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!
STOP HIM! HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE!
HELLO, MR. BROCK...

... MY NAME IS CARL!
WE TRIED TO REASON WITH YOU.
DONNA IS BIG INTO REASONING.
BUT I'VE FOUND THAT WHEN DEALING WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
...REASONING DOESN'T WORK!
SO YOU ARE GOING TO HELP US, MR. BROCK!
I ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL SEE IT OUR WAY...
...OR YOU WON'T BE SEEING ANYTHING AT ALL!
CARL! STOP THIS! YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL TO YOUR OTHER!
STOP!
NO, CARL, COME ON! SHOW ME HOW DECENT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS REALLY ARE!
HAHAHAHA!

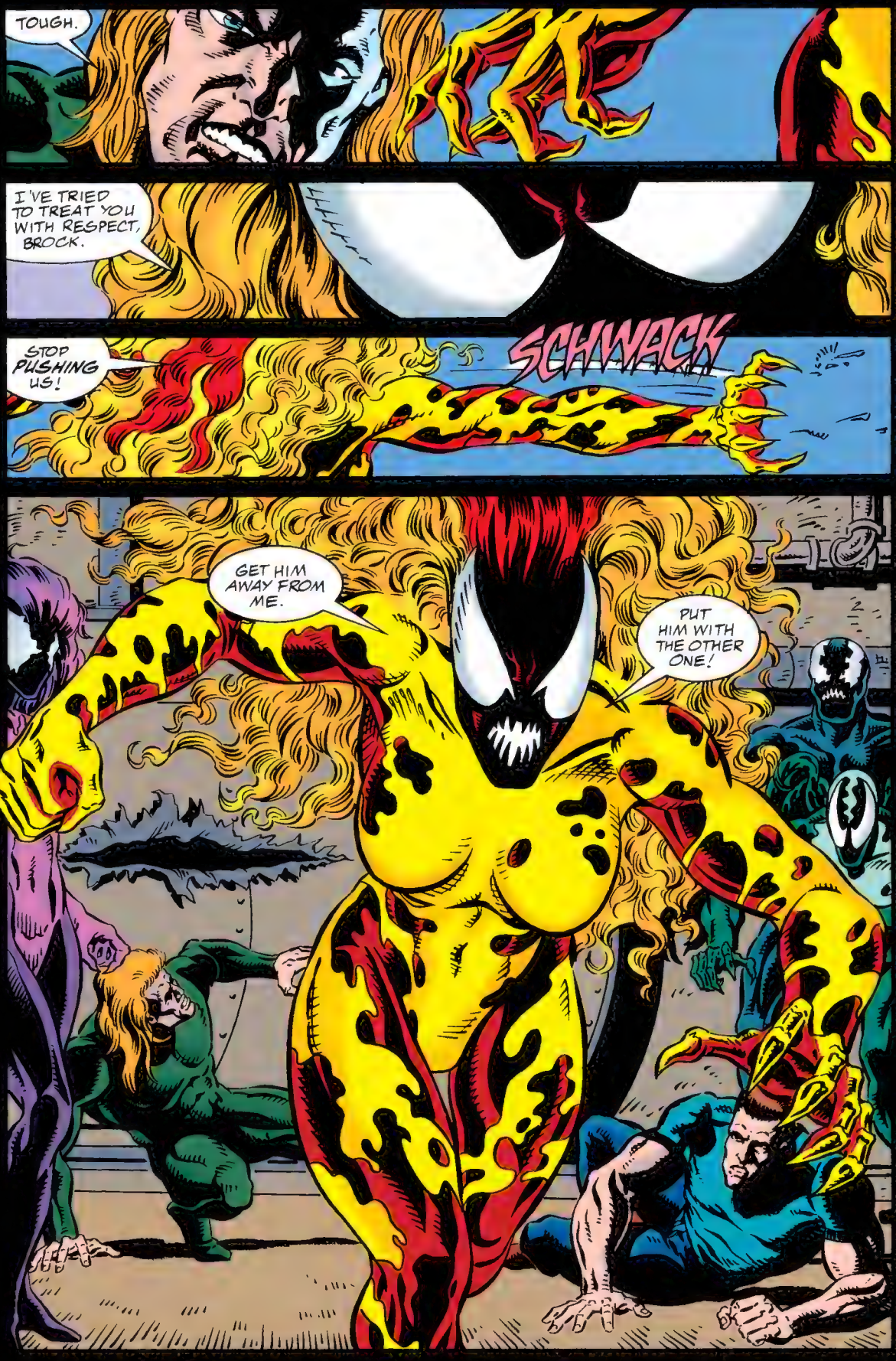

MEANWHILE, AT THE ADIRONDACK FACILITY HOLDING THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE...
WOOOOOO
ALL UNITS CONVERGE ON MAIN BUILDING!
"THE SUBJECT HAS ESCAPED!"
OMIGOD! THIS PLACE IS A SLAUGHTERHOUSE!
ZWERLING IS STILL ALIVE!
PULSE IS WEAK...ERRATIC... GET THE CHOPPER READY!
STAY SHARP, PEOPLE! I DON'T WANT TO GIVE THAT THING ANY OPPORTUNITY TO SNEAK ON BOARD.
COLONEL TANG TO ALL UNITS.
LET'S START TAKING THIS PLACE APART BRICK BY BRICK.
THAT THING IS NOT ESCAPING!

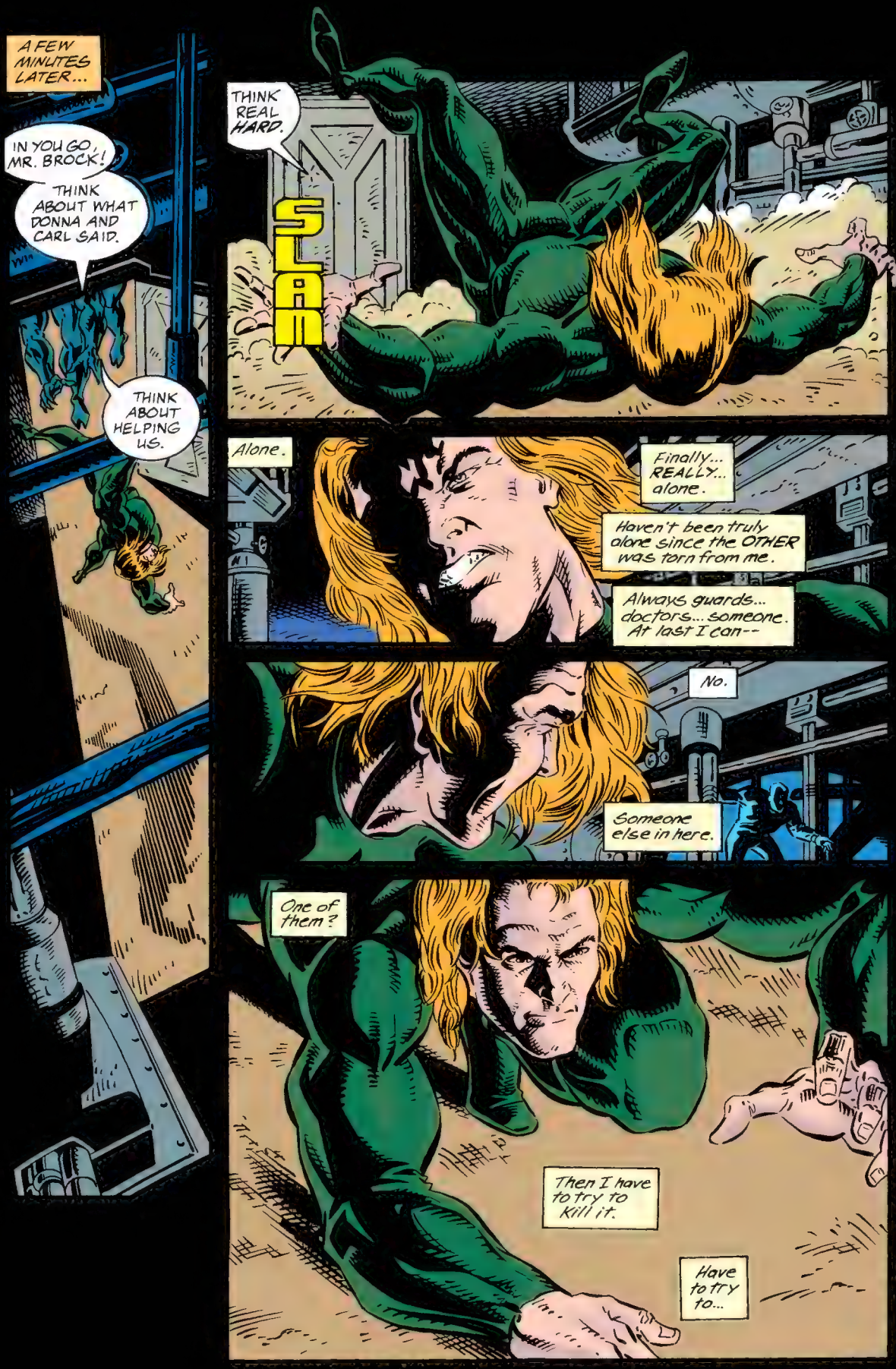

MOVE IT! HE'S FADING FAST!
I'M BARELY GETTING A PULSE.
LISTEN... TO... ME...
JUST RELAX, SIR. YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE.
IT'S...
HERE!
OMIGOD! IT WAS COVERING HIS BODY! IT'S--
coming
eddie


BE A MAN, CARL!
JUST DO IT!
PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY!
END IT NOW. END IT HERE.
GET CONTROL OF YOURSELF, CARL!
TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR OTHER!

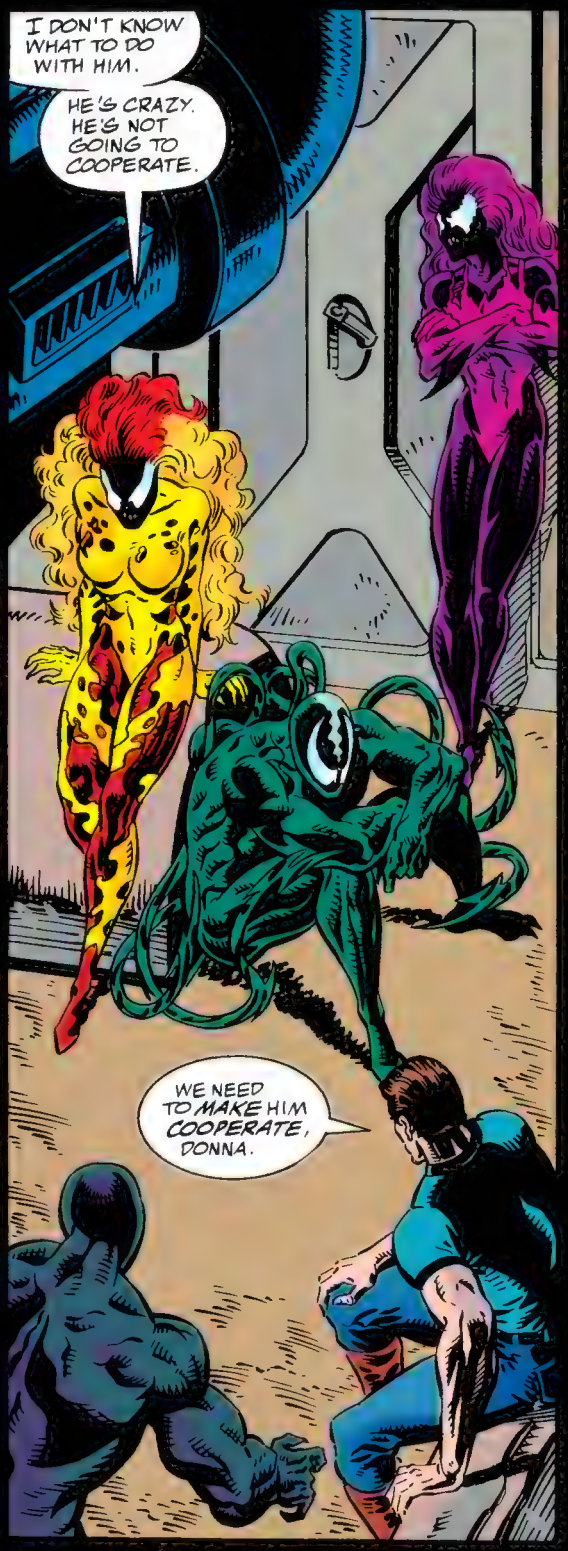
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE STRONGEST OF US ALL!
PLEASE, CARL...
...DO IT FOR ALL OF US!
FIGHT IT!
HURTS...
...SO...
...MUCH.

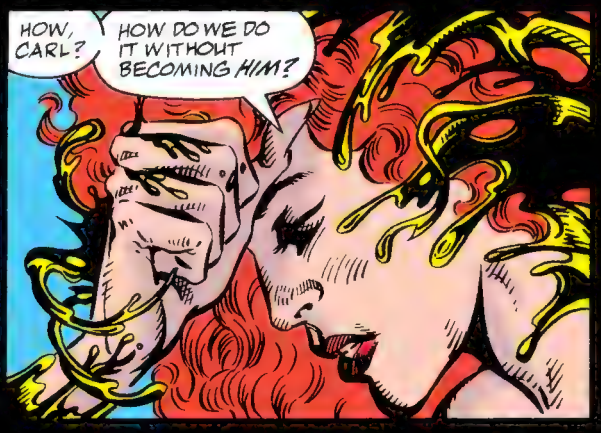
YOU DID IT, CARL. YOU CONTROLLED IT.
YOU WON.
BRAVO! BRAVO!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE HERO TODAY, CARL!
BUT WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?
DO NOT LAUGH AT US, MR. BROCK.
WE ARE TRYING VERY HARD TO STAY IN CONTROL AND YOU'RE NOT HELPING THE SITUATION.

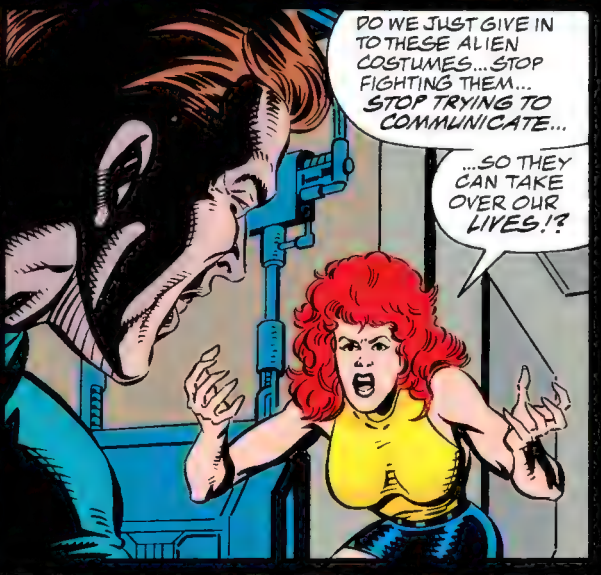

TOUGH.
I'VE TRIED TO TREAT YOU WITH RESPECT, BROCK.
STOP PUSHING US!
SCHWACK
GET HIM AWAY FROM ME.
PUT HIM WITH THE OTHER ONE!


A FEW MINUTES LATER...
IN YOU GO, MR. BROCK!
THINK ABOUT WHAT DONNA AND CARL SAID.
THINK ABOUT HELPING US.
THINK REAL HARD.
SLAM
Alone.
Finally... REALLY... alone.
Haven't been truly alone since the OTHER was torn from me.
Always guards... doctors... someone. At last I can--
No.
Someone else in here.
One of them?
Then I have to try to kill it.
Have to try to...

...KILL THEM ALL!
NO!
WAIT! DON'T!
I'M NOT ONE OF THEM! IT'S ME, BROCK! ME!
ELLIS... THE REPORTER?
YEAH. NOW, ABOUT THAT INTERVIEW...?

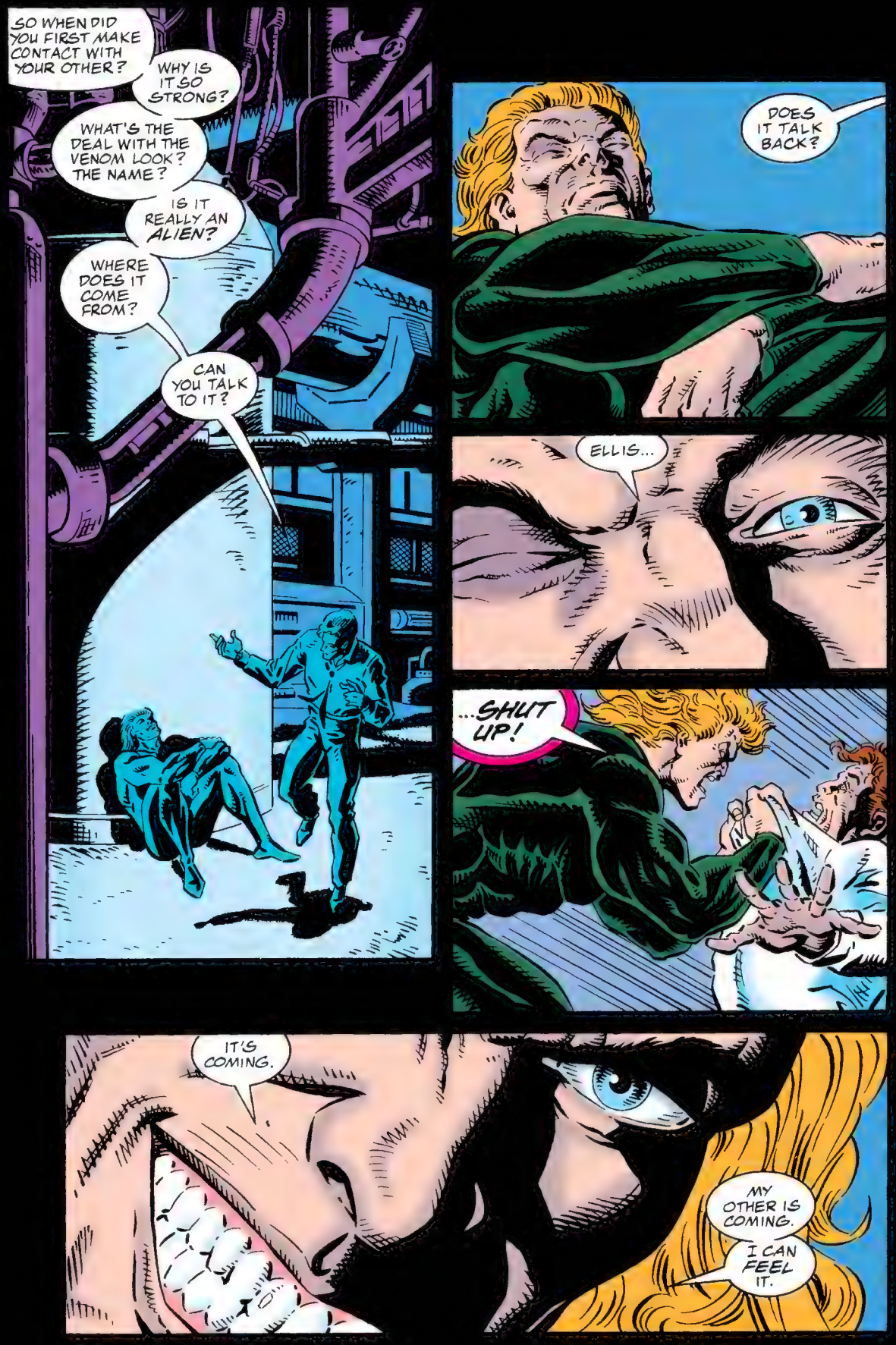

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.
HE'S CRAZY. HE'S NOT GOING TO COOPERATE.
WE NEED TO MAKE HIM COOPERATE, DONNA.


HOW, CARL?
HOW DO WE DO IT WITHOUT BECOMING HIM?

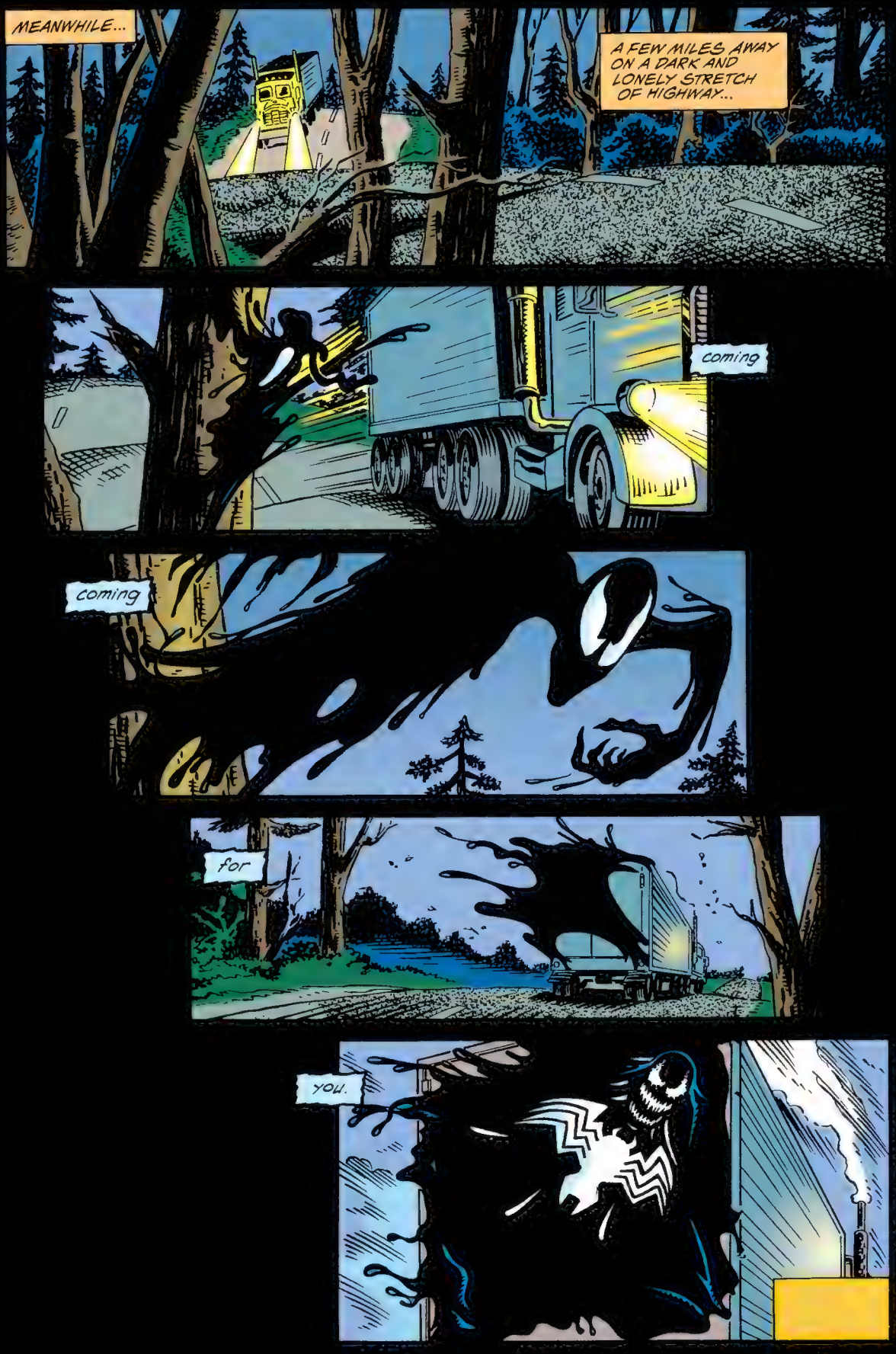

DO WE JUST GIVE IN TO THESE ALIEN COSTUMES... STOP FIGHTING THEM... STOP TRYING TO COMMUNICATE...
...SO THEY CAN TAKE OVER OUR LIVES!?

TIME IS AGAINST US, DONNA. YOU KNOW THE LIFE FOUNDATION ISN'T GOING TO LET US WALK AWAY WITH ONE OF THEIR TOP SECRET WEAPONS.
I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THEIR ORGANIZATION ANYMORE.
BROCK IS OUR ONLY CHANCE.

THEN IT'S LOOKING LIKE WE DON'T STAND MUCH OF A CHANCE.
I'M TIRED OF TALKING ABOUT IT. I'M GOING TO GET SOME SLEEP.
YOU ALL SHOULD DO THE SAME.
IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT, CARL. WE'LL FIND A WAY TO BEAT THESE THINGS.
I HOPE SO, LESLIE.
I REALLY DO.


SO WHEN DID YOU FIRST MAKE CONTACT WITH YOUR OTHER?
WHY IS IT SO STRONG?
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE VENOM LOOK? THE NAME?
IS IT REALLY AN ALIEN?
WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?
CAN YOU TALK TO IT?
DOES IT TALK BACK?
ELLIS...
...SHUT UP!
IT'S COMING.
MY OTHER IS COMING.
I CAN FEEL IT.

AT THAT MOMENT...
LET'S DO THIS BY THE NUMBERS, PEOPLE.
I DON'T WANT THAT THING GETTING AWAY AGAIN.
NOTHING, COLONEL. SENSORS AREN'T SHOWING ANY LIFE SIGNS ON THIS SHIP.
THEY'RE ALL DEAD.
GO OVER IT AGAIN. I WANT NO MISTAKES.
AND I WANT ROADBLOCKS, SEARCH TEAMS, ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES INVOLVED...
INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO SHOOT TO KILL... I WANT THAT THING STOPPED!


MEANWHILE...
A FEW MILES AWAY ON A DARK AND LONELY STRETCH OF HIGHWAY...
coming
coming
for
you.

MARVEL COMICS
VENOM
SEPARATION ANXIETY
PART 3 OF 4
3
FEB
SYMBIOTE SIEGE!

THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO...
OOO-AH! TIME TO PULL THIS PUPPY OVER.
EXIT
NEED SOME FOOD AND COFFEE AND I'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW.
FOOD
REALLY HAULED IT FROM BACK EAST.
GOT OUT OF THE MOUNTAINS JUS' IN TIME.
TRUCKERS TALKIN' OVER THE CB COMPLAININ' ABOUT SOME ROADBLOCKS... HAVIN' THEIR RIGS SEARCHED...
EAT
YEAH, I GOT OUT IN THE NICK OF TIME--
WHAT THE--?
SHUT UP OR I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!

NOT A PROBLEM. TAKE THE RIG... IT'S YOURS... NOT WORTH MY LIFE.
DIDN'T THINK SO, TRUCKER BOY.
I WANT YOU TO OPEN EVERYTHING UP.
NICE AND SLOW OR YOU'RE A DEAD MAN.
FINE.
JUST DON'T HURT ME.
I'VE GOT A WIFE AND KIDS.
I-- WHAT...?
WHAT IS THAT THING, RALPH?

STAN LEE PRESENTS: VENOM
SEPARATION ANXIETY, PART 3

PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

HOWARD MACKIE	RON RANDALL	SAM DELAROSA	TOM SMITH	KEN LOPEZ	DANNY FINGEROTH	BOB BUDIANSKY
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	COLORIST	LETTERER	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

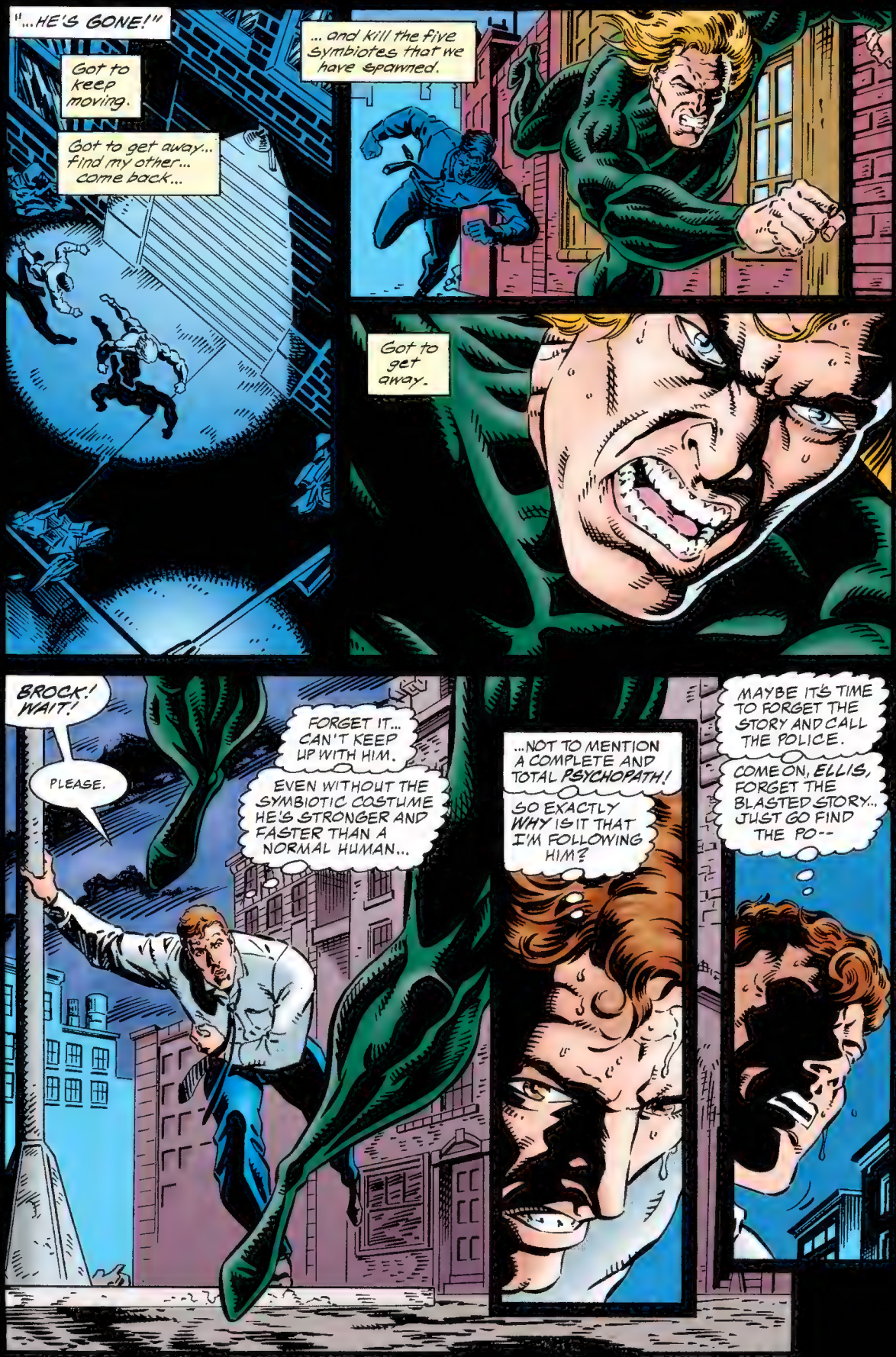
find eddie
bond with him again
be whole
be VENOM
BKOOM
GOT HIM! I GOT HIM!
SUCKER'S GOING TO BE BLEEDING ALL OVER THE PAVEMENT.

HE'S GOING TO...
WHAT THE--?
IT AIN'T HUMAN!
must find eddie
others pursue us
men with fire to hurt me
EAT
eddie will help
with eddie we are venom
we are strong
these stand in my way
they are nothing
they can die

this host body is no good
is weak
is scared
is not eddie
OMIGOD.
coming
eddie
we will be venom again
soon...

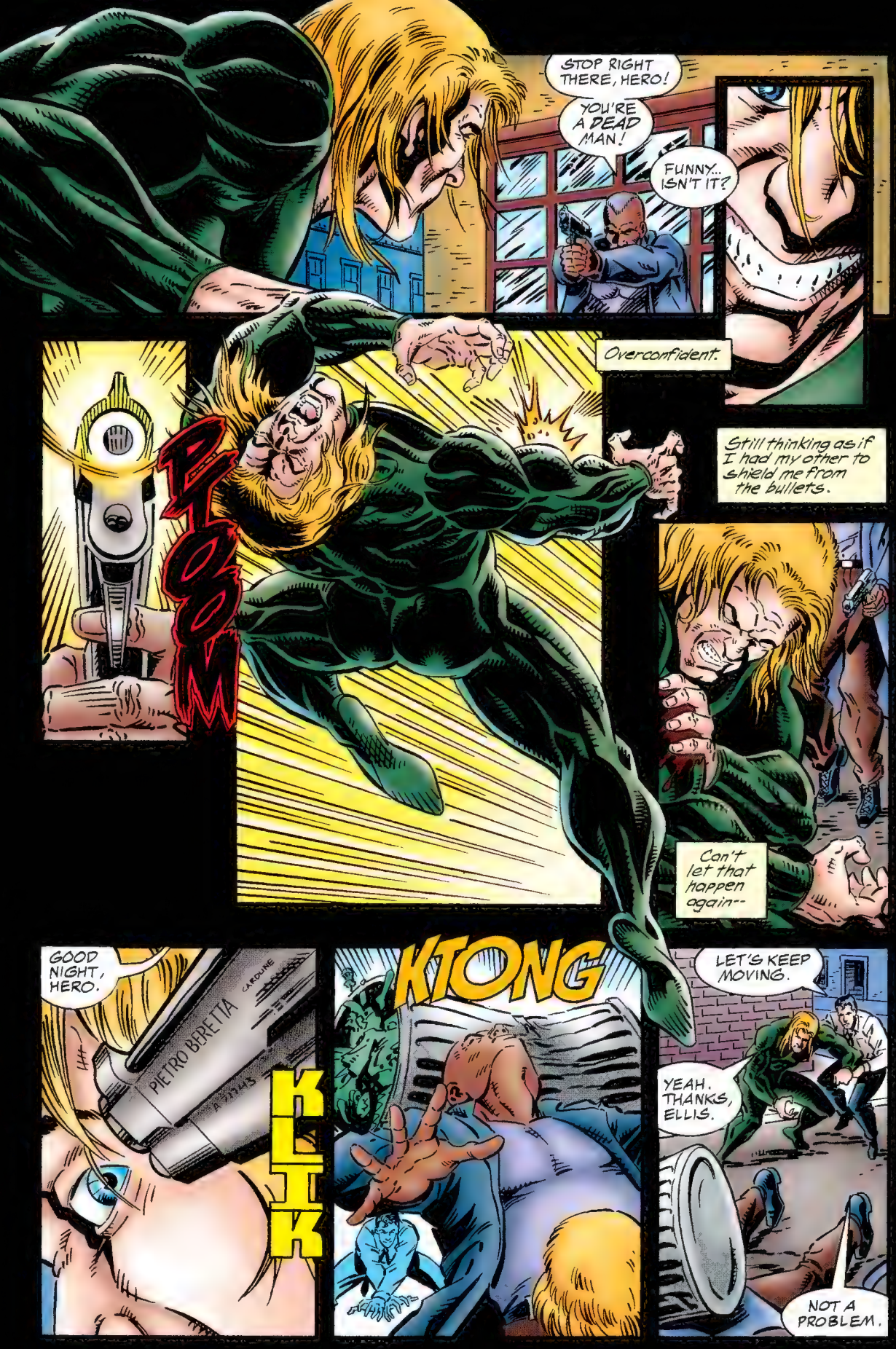
...very soon, eddie
WHO IS THAT PRETTY GIRL IN THE MIRROR THERE?
WHO CAN THAT PRETTY GIRL BE?
SUCH A PRETTY FACE... SUCH A PRETTY SMILE... SUCH A PRETTY...
...ME.
WHAT AM I DOING HERE IN AN ABANDONED FACTORY IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?
I WAS GOING TO DO SOMETHING WITH MY LIFE.
HELP PEOPLE.
WHAT AM I ALLOWING THIS LIVING COSTUME TO TURN ME INTO?
AM I GOING TO TURN OUT LIKE...
...BROCK.

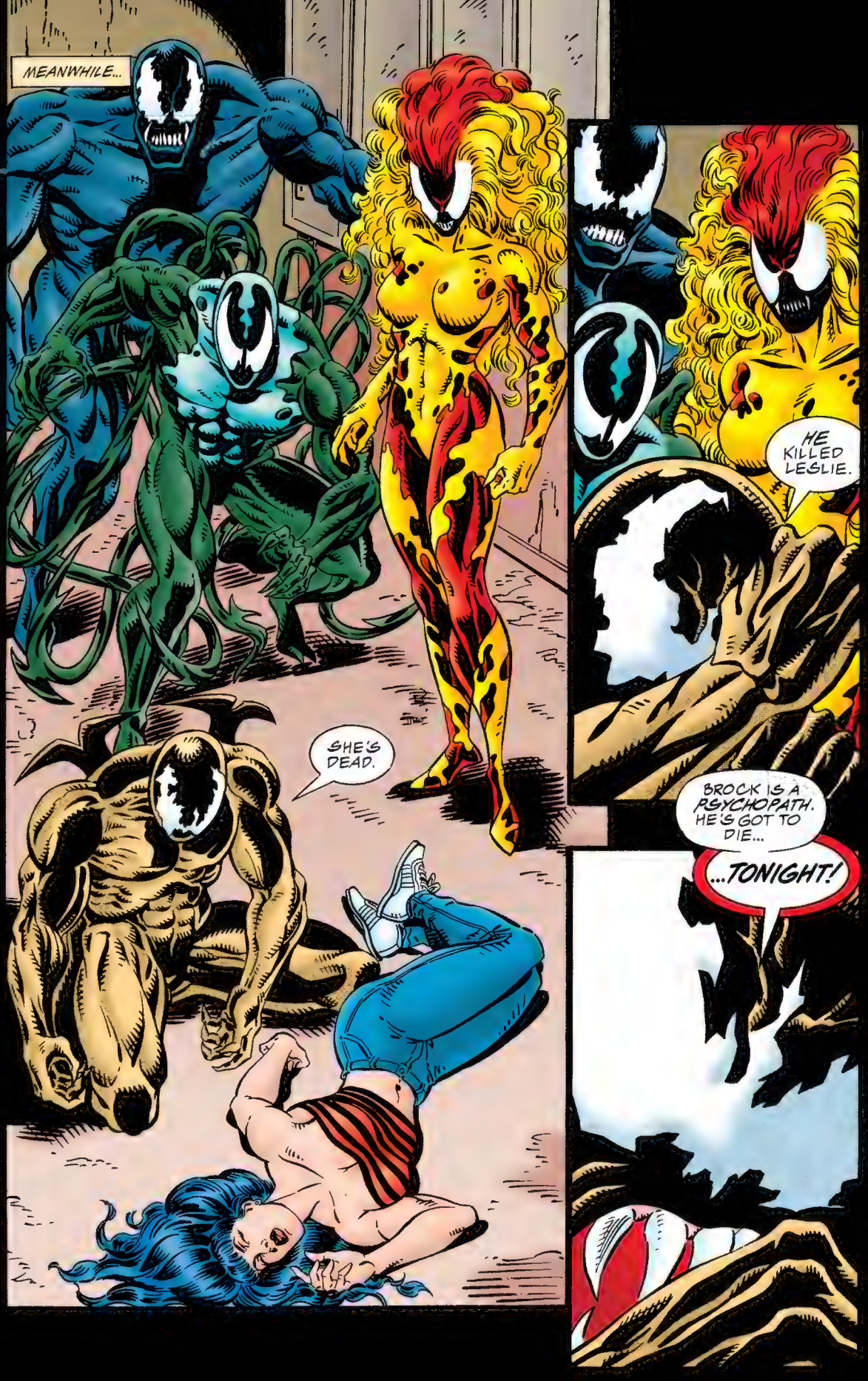
LATER...
CLONG
OKAY, BROCK! RISE AND SHINE!
TIME TO START UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST NIGHT!
BROCK? WHERE ARE YOU HIDING, YOU...
BROCK!
BROCK!


"...HE'S GONE!"
Got to keep moving.
Got to get away... find my other... come back...
... and kill the five symbiotes that we have spawned.
Got to get away.
BROCK! WAIT!
PLEASE.
FORGET IT... CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HIM.
EVEN WITHOUT THE SYMBIOTIC COSTUME HE'S STRONGER AND FASTER THAN A NORMAL HUMAN...
...NOT TO MENTION A COMPLETE AND TOTAL PSYCHOPATH!
SO EXACTLY WHY IS IT THAT I'M FOLLOWING HIM?
MAYBE IT'S TIME TO FORGET THE STORY AND CALL THE POLICE.
COME ON, ELLIS, FORGET THE BLASTED STORY... JUST GO FIND THE PO--

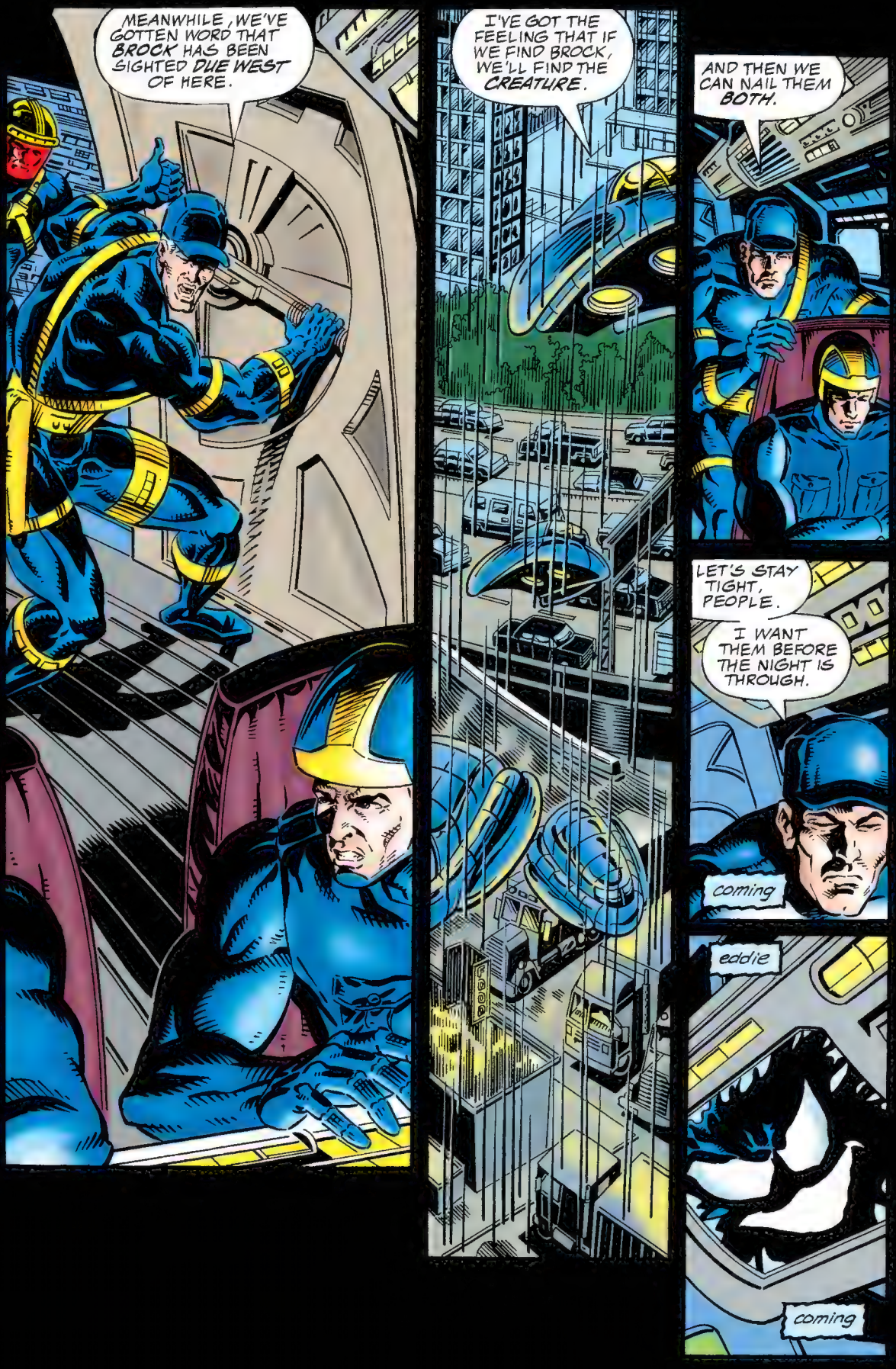
OOOH! LOOKIE HERE, BOYS! A PRETTY LITTLE THING LOST IN OUR TRASH.
GUYS. I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.
YOU WANT CASH... IT'S YOURS.
I'M SORRY I GOT LOST IN YOUR 'HOOD, BUT...
DO NOT TALK DOWN TO ME!
I'M NOT STUPID!
JUST MEAN.
KRAK
YOU KNOW, I'VE HEARD AN EXPRESSION...

"GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE."
"PEOPLE KILL PEOPLE."
AND THAT PRETTY MUCH SUMS UP MY LIFE FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS.
WASTE HIM!
This feels good.
Still have some of the old strength... the old moves...
...the old ANGER!
Maybe I can go on WITHOUT my other?
Maybe I can redeem myself?
Maybe I can be a HERO?


STOP RIGHT THERE, HERO!
YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
FUNNY.. ISN'T IT?
Overconfident.
BOOM
Still thinking as if I had my other to shield me from the bullets.
Can't let that happen again--
GOOD NIGHT, HERO.
PIETRO BERETTA
CAL.9 PARA
KLIK
KTONG
LET'S KEEP MOVING.
YEAH. THANKS, ELLIS.
NOT A PROBLEM.


MEANWHILE...
SHE'S DEAD.
HE KILLED LESLIE.
BROCK IS A PSYCHOPATH. HE'S GOT TO DIE...
...TONIGHT!

CHICAGO.
I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY IT WENT.
WHEN IT WAS ON ME... IT WAS ALMOST AS THOUGH I COULD HEAR IT.
IT JUST KEPT SAYING ONE NAME OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
EDDIE.
LET'S MOVE IT, PEOPLE!
WE'VE GOT US A FUGITIVE TO APPREHEND.
WE'VE GOT PEOPLE ALL OVER THIS SECTOR.
IF IT'S HERE... IT'S OURS!
FOOD
EAT


MEANWHILE, WE'VE GOTTEN WORD THAT BROCK HAS BEEN SIGHTED DUE WEST OF HERE.
I'VE GOT THE FEELING THAT IF WE FIND BROCK, WE'LL FIND THE CREATURE.
AND THEN WE CAN NAIL THEM BOTH.
LET'S STAY TIGHT, PEOPLE.
I WANT THEM BEFORE THE NIGHT IS THROUGH.
coming
eddie
coming

A SHORT TIME LATER...
CRAK
WE'RE IN!
COME ON, ELLIS. WE CAN REST HERE.
CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU.
YOU OKAY, BROCK?
YEAH. YEAH. JUST A LITTLE TIRED.
JUST NEED TO CATCH MY BREATH IS...
...ALL--

A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY..
THERE!
MORE OF BROCK'S HANDIWORK!
THE MURDERING PSYCHOPATH HAS GOT TO BE FOUND!
GOT TO BE STOPPED!
HAS TO DIE!
DON'T DO THIS TO YOURSELF, CARL. WE STILL MAY NEED HIM.
LOOK AT HOW YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL AGAIN.
BROCK MAY BE A PSYCHO, BUT SOMEHOW HE AND HIS SYMBIOTE CAN COMMUNICATE.
WE'VE GOT TO LEARN HOW. WE'RE BETTER... MORE DECENT THAN BROCK... IF WE COULD JUST LEARN TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR--WAIT!
I CAN SENSE HIM! BROCK... HE'S NEARBY!
LET'S JUST FIND HIM AND TRY NOT TO KILL HIM.
I'LL TRY.

THEY'RE COMING, ELLIS.
STAY STILL.
YOU LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, BUT I'VE STOPPED THE FLOW WITH A FIRST AID KIT I FOUND.
YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO TAKE IT EASY.
NOT AN OPTION.
I CAN SENSE THE OTHERS APPROACHING. WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE--
THKOOM
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, ELLIS.
WE'LL FAN OUT.
AND EVERYONE STAY IN CONTROL.

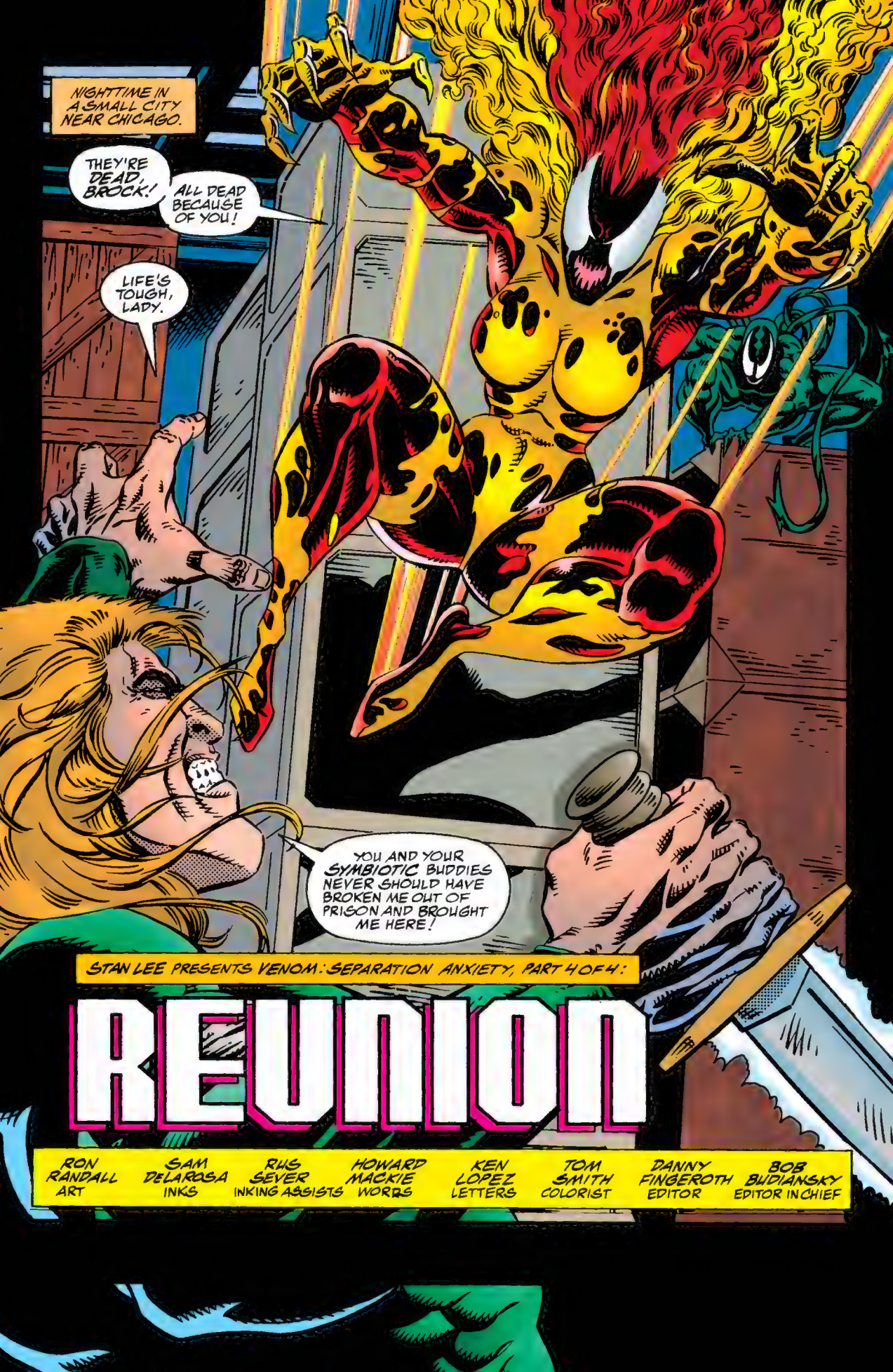
STOP. ONE OF THEM IS NEARBY. I CAN FEEL IT.
COME ON, BROCK. ALL WE WANT TO DO IS *TALK* WITH YOU.
THERE YOU ARE!
YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE *KILLED* HER, BROCK!
SHE WAS ONE OF US.
IF YOU WOULD HAVE JUST TALKED TO US LIKE A REASONABLE MAN...
...EVERYTHING COULD HAVE GONE SO MUCH MORE *EASILY* FOR ALL OF US.
GOT TO DO *SOMETHING*. GOT TO *TRY*.

YOU'RE MAKING ME ANGRY, BROCK!
I'M LOSING CONTROL!
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON AND A SYMBIOTE LOSE CONTROL!?
OF COURSE YOU DO!
WHAT--?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? A KNIFE CAN'T HURT US. IT--
SHWIK

NOOOO!
BROCK.
WHAT...
...DID...
...YOU...
...DO?
He's dead.
How could the knife penetrate through his other? Unless...
Got to take a closer look.

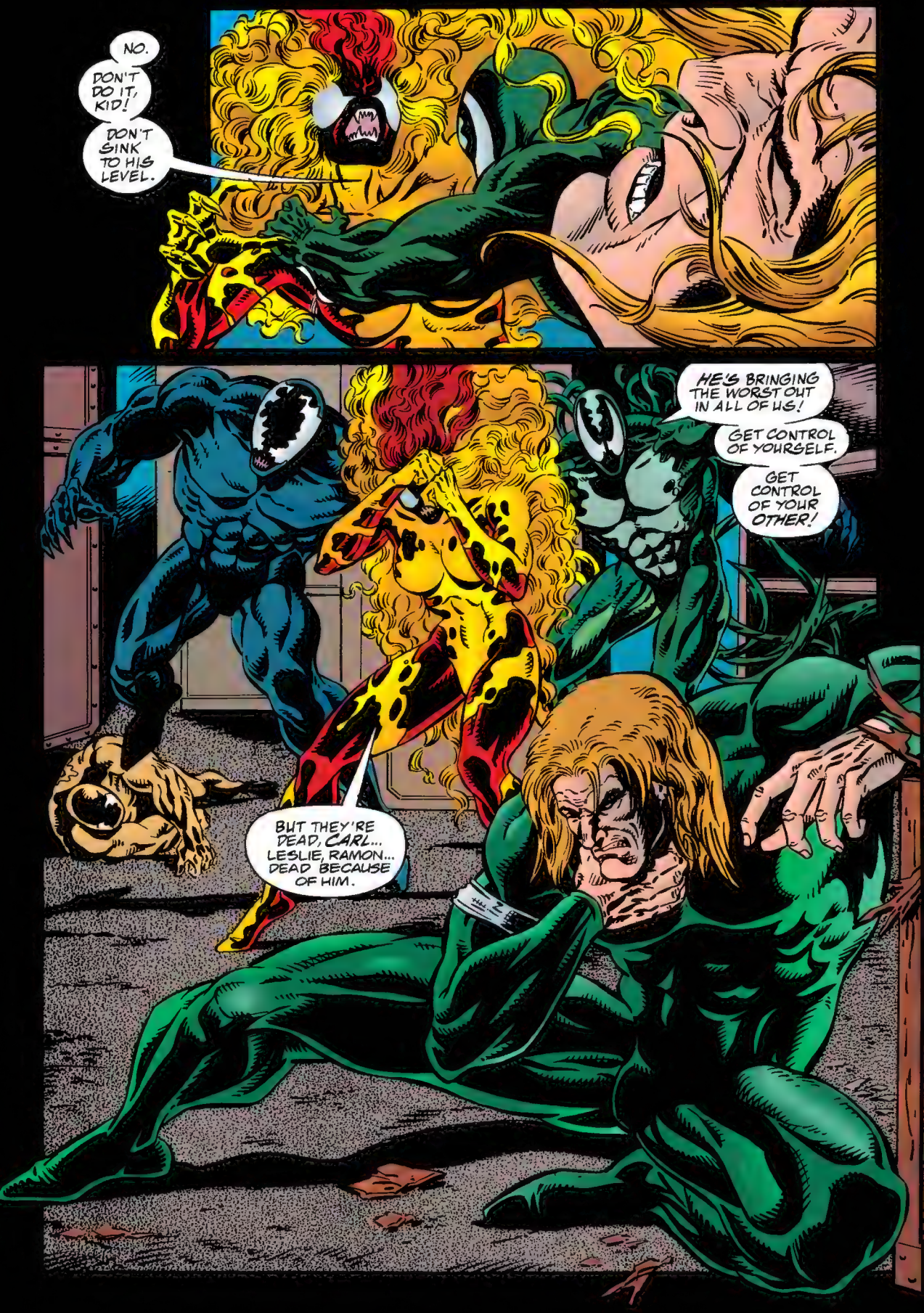
MURDERER!
CARL IS RIGHT!
BROCK, YOU DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE!
THE TIME FOR TALKING IS OVER!

MARVEL COMICS
4
MAR
VENOM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SEPARATION ANXIETY
PART 4 OF 4
RANDALL
DEADLY REUNION!


NIGHTTIME IN A SMALL CITY NEAR CHICAGO.
THEY'RE DEAD, BROCK!
ALL DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU!
LIFE'S TOUGH, LADY.
YOU AND YOUR SYMBIOTIC BUDDIES NEVER SHOULD HAVE BROKEN ME OUT OF PRISON AND BROUGHT ME HERE!
STAN LEE PRESENTS VENOM: SEPARATION ANXIETY, PART 4 OF 4:
REUNION
RON RANDALL ART
SAM DELAROSA INKS
RUS SEVER INKING ASSISTS
HOWARD MACKIE WORDS
KEN LOPEZ LETTERS
TOM SMITH COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY EDITOR IN CHIEF

AFTER TONIGHT, LIFE IS NOT SOMETHING WITH WHICH YOU ARE GOING TO NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF!
DONNA, I KNOW YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME...
...BUT I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH KILLING YOUR FRIENDS!
LIAR!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
WHETHER YOU PUT THE SONIC BLADE INTO THEM OR NOT!

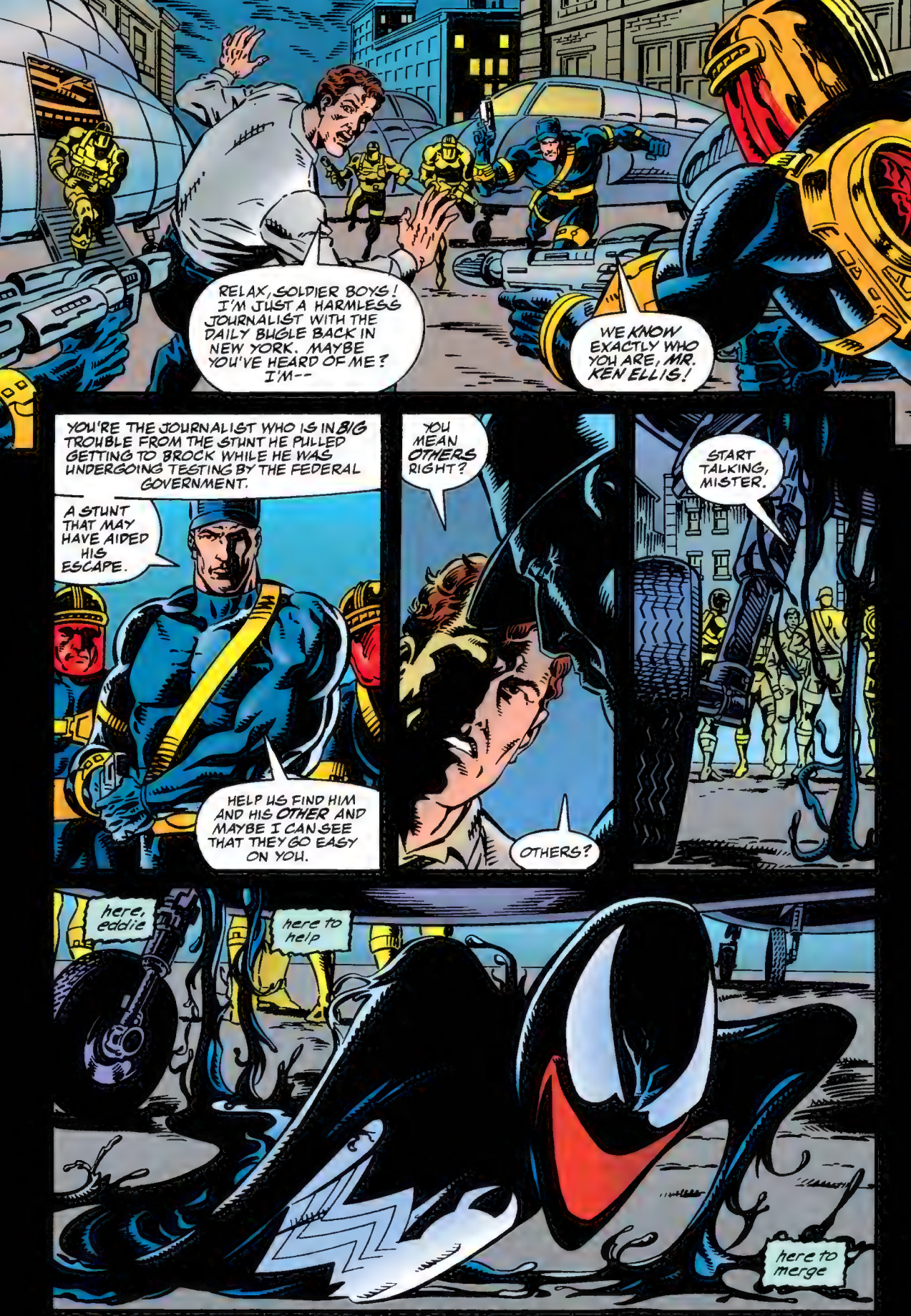
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING!
WE'LL WORK WITHOUT YOU, BROCK!
FIND THE SECRETS OF COMMUNICATING WITH OUR OTHERS WHILE YOU ARE ROTTING IN YOUR GRAVE.
FINE...
WHAT I...
DESERVE...

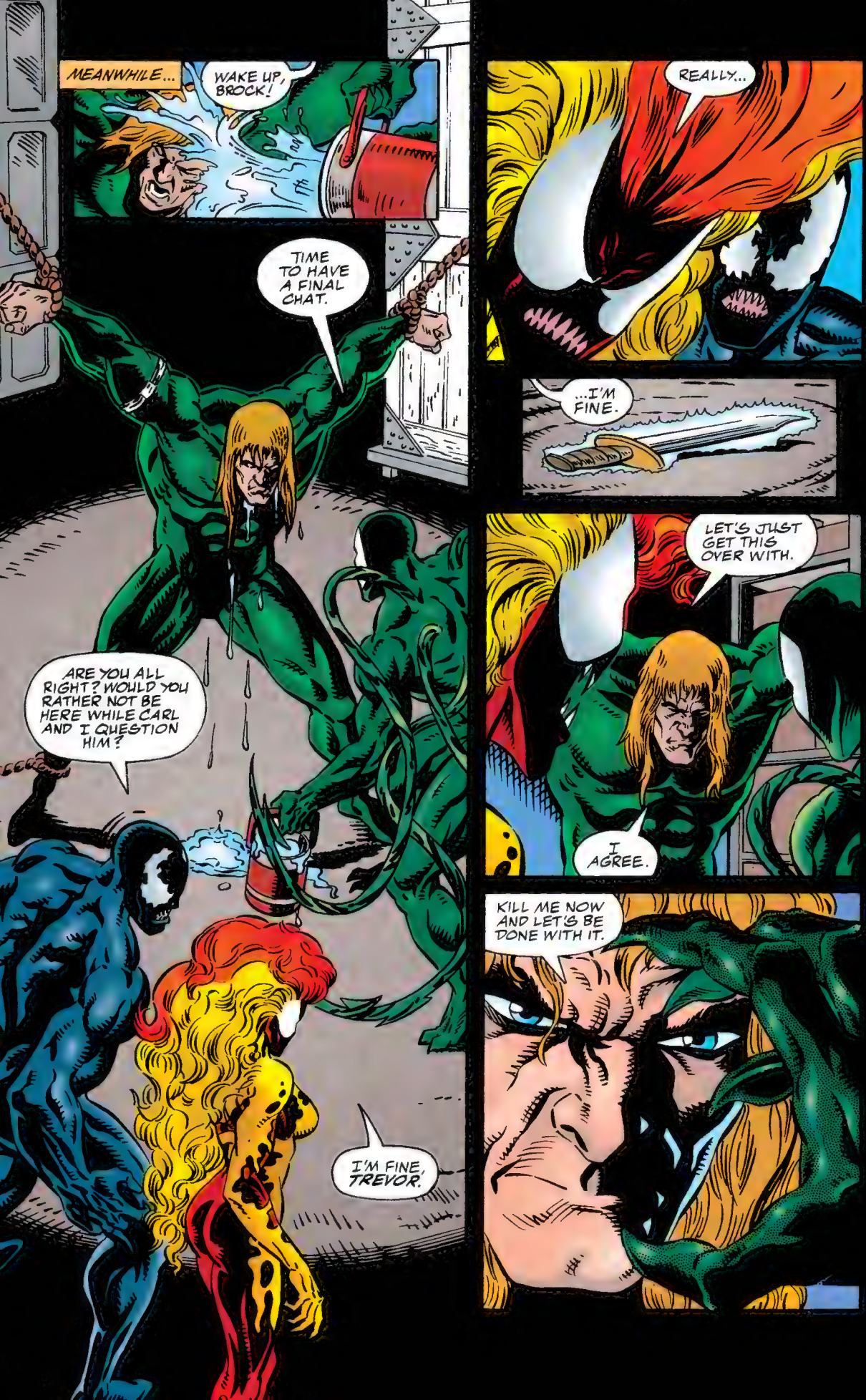

NO.
DON'T DO IT, KID!
DON'T SINK TO HIS LEVEL.
HE'S BRINGING THE WORST OUT IN ALL OF US!
GET CONTROL OF YOURSELF.
GET CONTROL OF YOUR OTHER!
BUT THEY'RE DEAD, CARL... LESLIE, RAMON... DEAD BECAUSE OF HIM.

I KNOW KID.
ALL ANY OF US EVER WANTED WAS TO DO SOME GOOD...
...LEARN TO CONTROL THE SYMBIOTES.
BUT THIS PSYCHO...
I DIDN'T KILL THEM!
NOT THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED THE OPPORTUNITY.
KRAK

AT THE OTHER END OF THE WAREHOUSE...
COME ON! COME... ON!
KLANG
GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE THINGS.
GOT TO RUN AS IF MY LIFE DEPENDS ON IT...
...BECAUSE IT DOES!
I'VE PUT MYSELF INTO A LOT OF NASTY SITUATIONS TRYING TO GET A STORY...
...BEEN SCARED...
...BUT NEVER THIS SCARED!

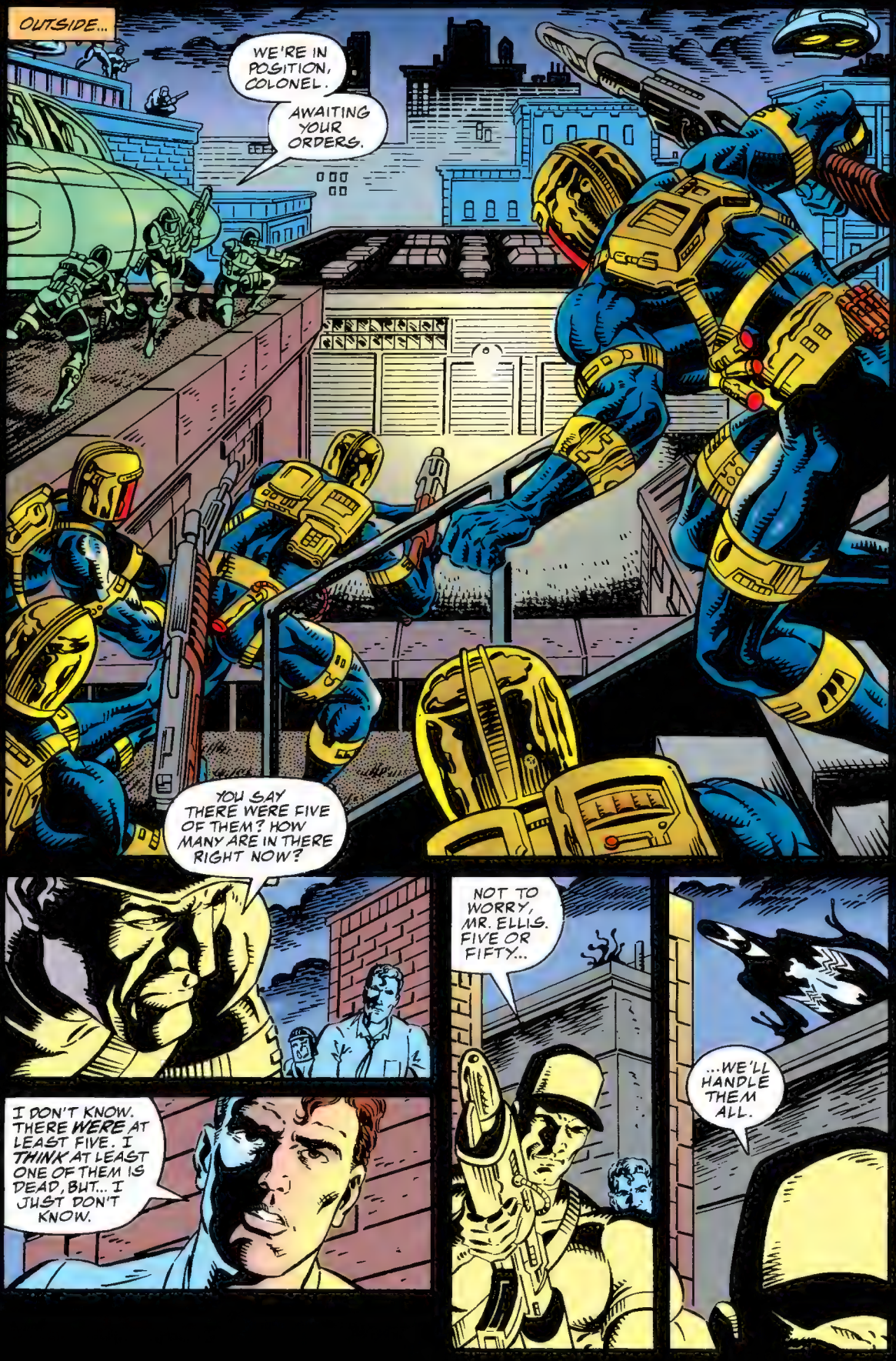
WHAT THE--?
THE LIGHT: HOW COULD THEY...?
YOU ON THE GROUND!
STAND FAST.
KEEP YOUR HANDS IN SIGHT AT ALL TIMES.
WE ARE FEDERAL AGENTS!
THANK YOU.


RELAX, SOLDIER BOYS! I'M JUST A HARMLESS JOURNALIST WITH THE DAILY BUGLE BACK IN NEW YORK. MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF ME? I'M--
WE KNOW EXACTLY WHO YOU ARE, MR. KEN ELLIS!
YOU'RE THE JOURNALIST WHO IS IN BIG TROUBLE FROM THE STUNT HE PULLED GETTING TO BROCK WHILE HE WAS UNDERGOING TESTING BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
A STUNT THAT MAY HAVE AIDED HIS ESCAPE.
HELP US FIND HIM AND HIS OTHER AND MAYBE I CAN SEE THAT THEY GO EASY ON YOU.
YOU MEAN OTHERS RIGHT?
OTHERS?
START TALKING, MISTER.
here, eddie
here to help
here to merge

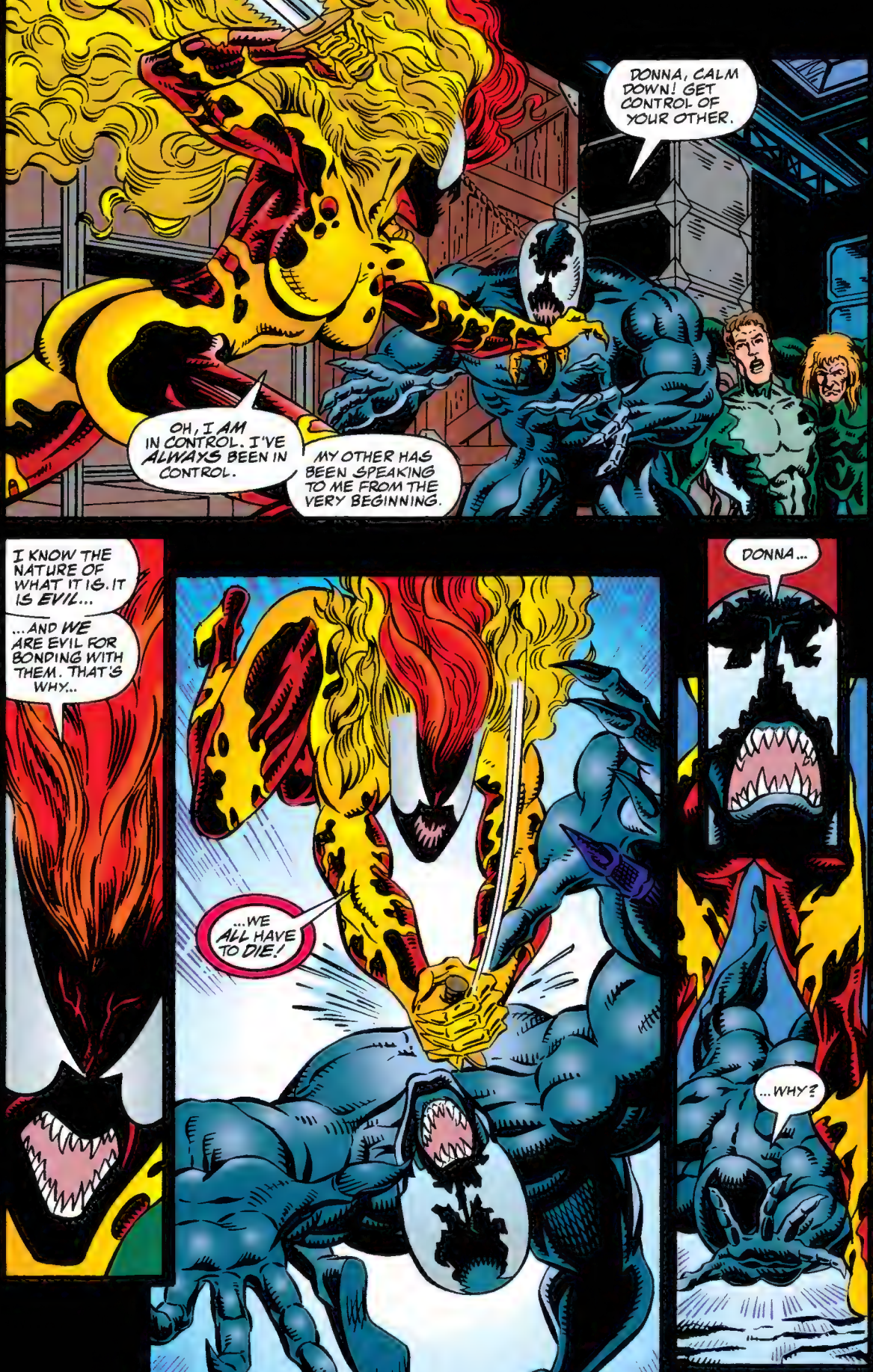

MEANWHILE...
WAKE UP, BROCK!
TIME TO HAVE A FINAL CHAT.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WOULD YOU RATHER NOT BE HERE WHILE CARL AND I QUESTION HIM?
I'M FINE, TREVOR.
REALLY...
...I'M FINE.
LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH.
I AGREE.
KILL ME NOW AND LET'S BE DONE WITH IT.

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT?
WE DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU!
THAT WOULD MAKE US LIKE YOU!
ALL WE WANT IS TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR OTHERS... TO LEARN TO CONTROL THEM.
WE WANT TO USE THEM TO DO SOME GOOD... A CONCEPT THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING.
EVERY DAY IT BECOMES HARDER TO CONTROL THEM.
EVERY DAY WE FEEL LIKE WE GIVE UP ANOTHER PIECE OF OUR SOULS TO THEM.
WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THEM, BROCK.
WE WANT TO UNDERSTAND THEM.

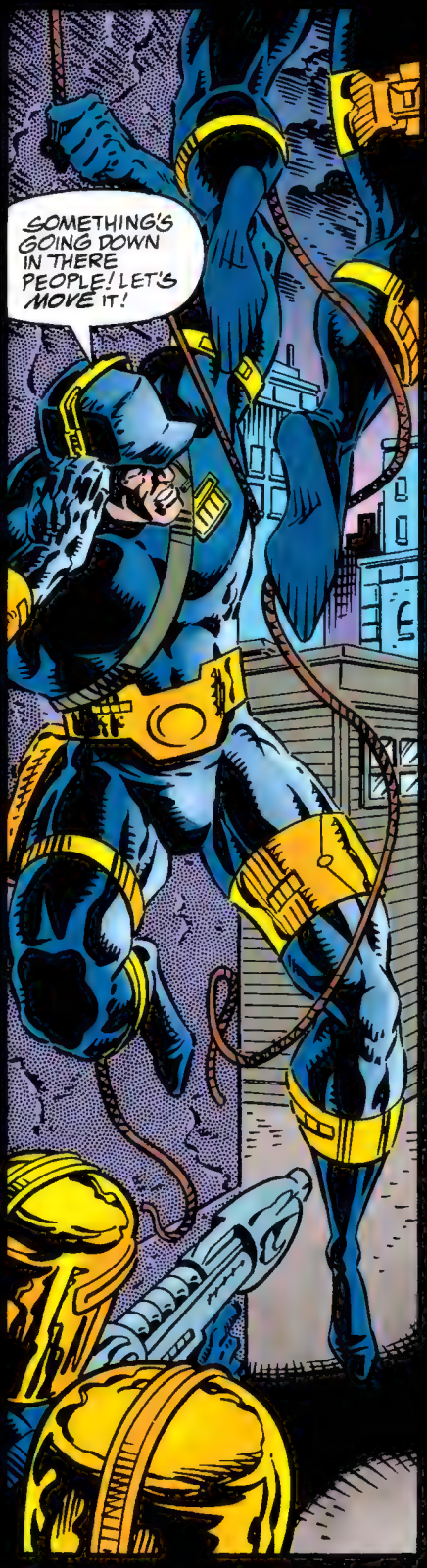
ALL I'M ASKING IS... IF THERE IS A SHRED OF DECENCY LEFT IN YOU... IF YOU HAVE ANY DESIRE TO ATONE FOR YOUR SINS... THE LIVES YOU DESTROYED... THOSE YOU HAVE TAKEN...
... PLEASE... PLEASE... HELP US.
I... I...

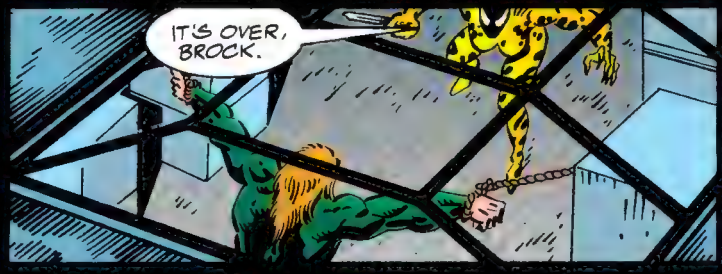

OUTSIDE...
WE'RE IN POSITION, COLONEL.
AWAITING YOUR ORDERS.
YOU SAY THERE WERE FIVE OF THEM? HOW MANY ARE IN THERE RIGHT NOW?
I DON'T KNOW. THERE *WERE* AT LEAST FIVE. I *THINK* AT LEAST ONE OF THEM IS DEAD, BUT... I JUST DON'T KNOW.
NOT TO WORRY, MR. ELLIS. FIVE OR FIFTY...
...WE'LL HANDLE THEM ALL.

WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, BROCK?
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
I CAN'T LET THINGS GO ON THE WAY THEY'VE BEEN.
THIS IS A GOOD THING YOU'RE DOING, MR. BROCK.
PERHAPS WE CAN FIND SOME WAY TO HELP YOU AS WELL.
NO!
HE'S EVIL!
HE AND HIS SYM-BIOTE!
THEY'VE GOT TO DIE!


DONNA, CALM DOWN! GET CONTROL OF YOUR OTHER.
OH, I AM IN CONTROL. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN CONTROL.
MY OTHER HAS BEEN SPEAKING TO ME FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
I KNOW THE NATURE OF WHAT IT IS. IT IS EVIL...
...AND WE ARE EVIL FOR BONDING WITH THEM. THAT'S WHY...
...WE ALL HAVE TO DIE!
DONNA...
...WHY?

IT HAD TO BE. WE WERE CORRUPTED BY THEM!
I HAD TO KILL LESLIE... RAMON... TREVOR... BEFORE THEIR OTHERS TOOK OVER.
THEY WANT TO SPAWN... TO MULTIPLY...
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT.
DONNA, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME... LISTEN TO YOURSELF!
THE VOICES YOU'RE HEARING... ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE FROM YOUR OTHER? ARE YOU--?!
I CAN HEAR IT! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO HEAR MINE.
EVEN BEFORE I WAS UNITED WITH IT.
THE VOICES! THE VOICES TOLD ME THEY WERE COMING. TOLD ME TO BE QUIET ABOUT THEM.
TOLD ME WHAT I HAD TO DO!
OH, DONNA... HOW IS IT THAT NONE OF US EVER KNEW? HOW COULD YOU HAVE PASSED THE PSYCH EVALUATION AT THE FOUNDATION?
PLEASE... I'M YOUR FRIEND.. LET ME HELP YOU.
CARL...
...I'M SORRY, BUT...
...I HAVE TO DO THIS.

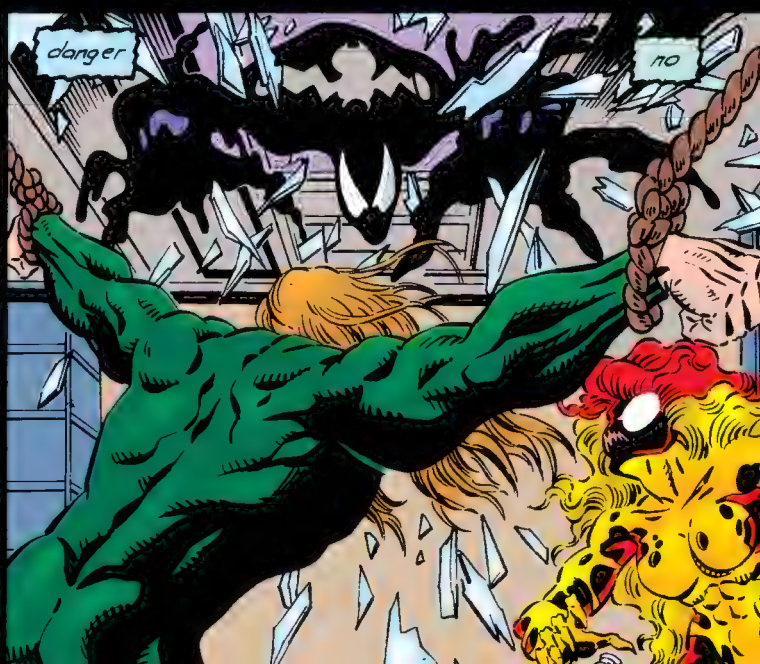

SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN IN THERE PEOPLE! LET'S MOVE IT!

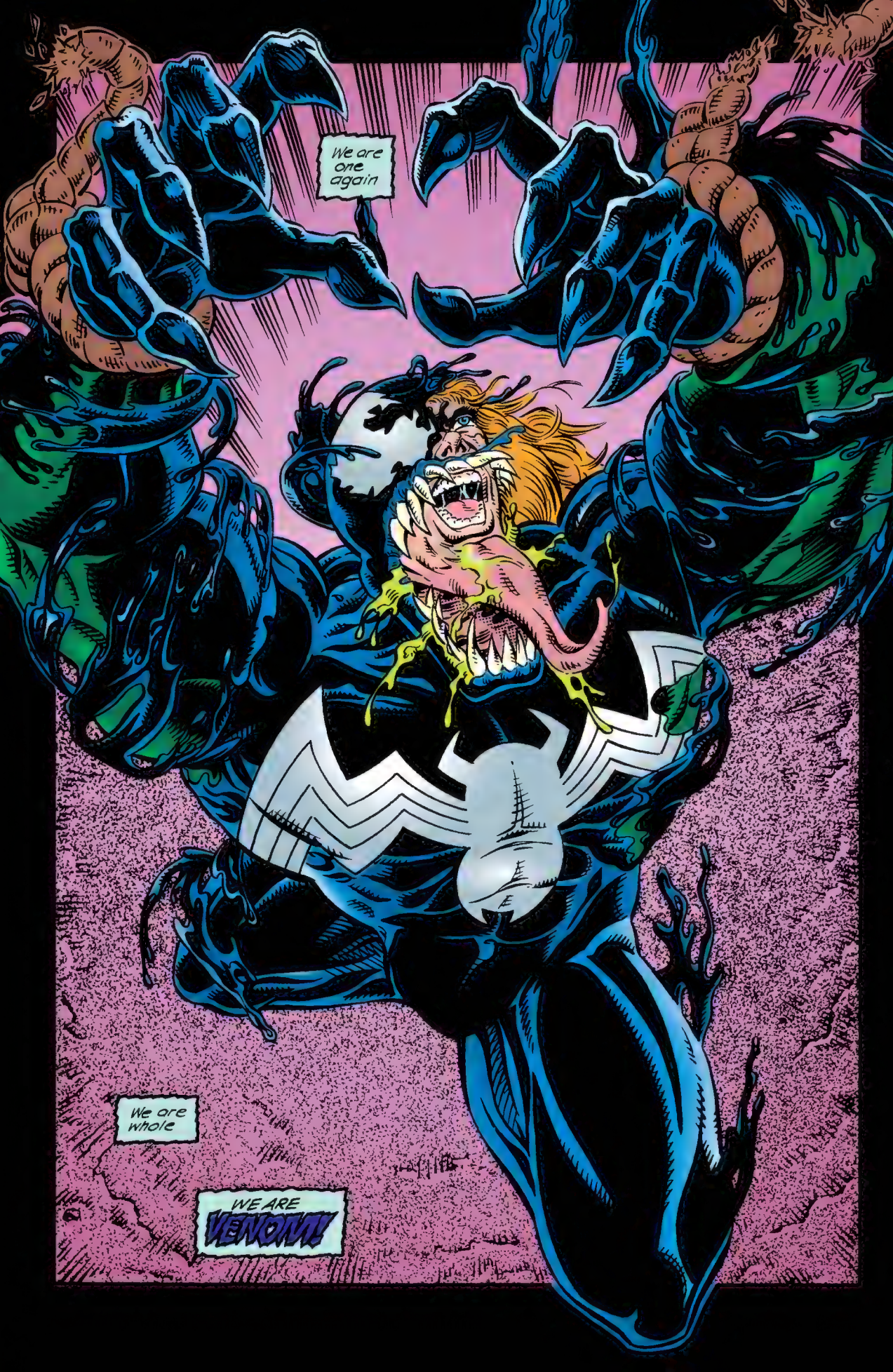

IT'S OVER, BROCK.

AFTER I KILL YOU I'LL HUNT DOWN YOUR OTHER AND THEN YOUR LAST SPAWN-- CARNAGE!

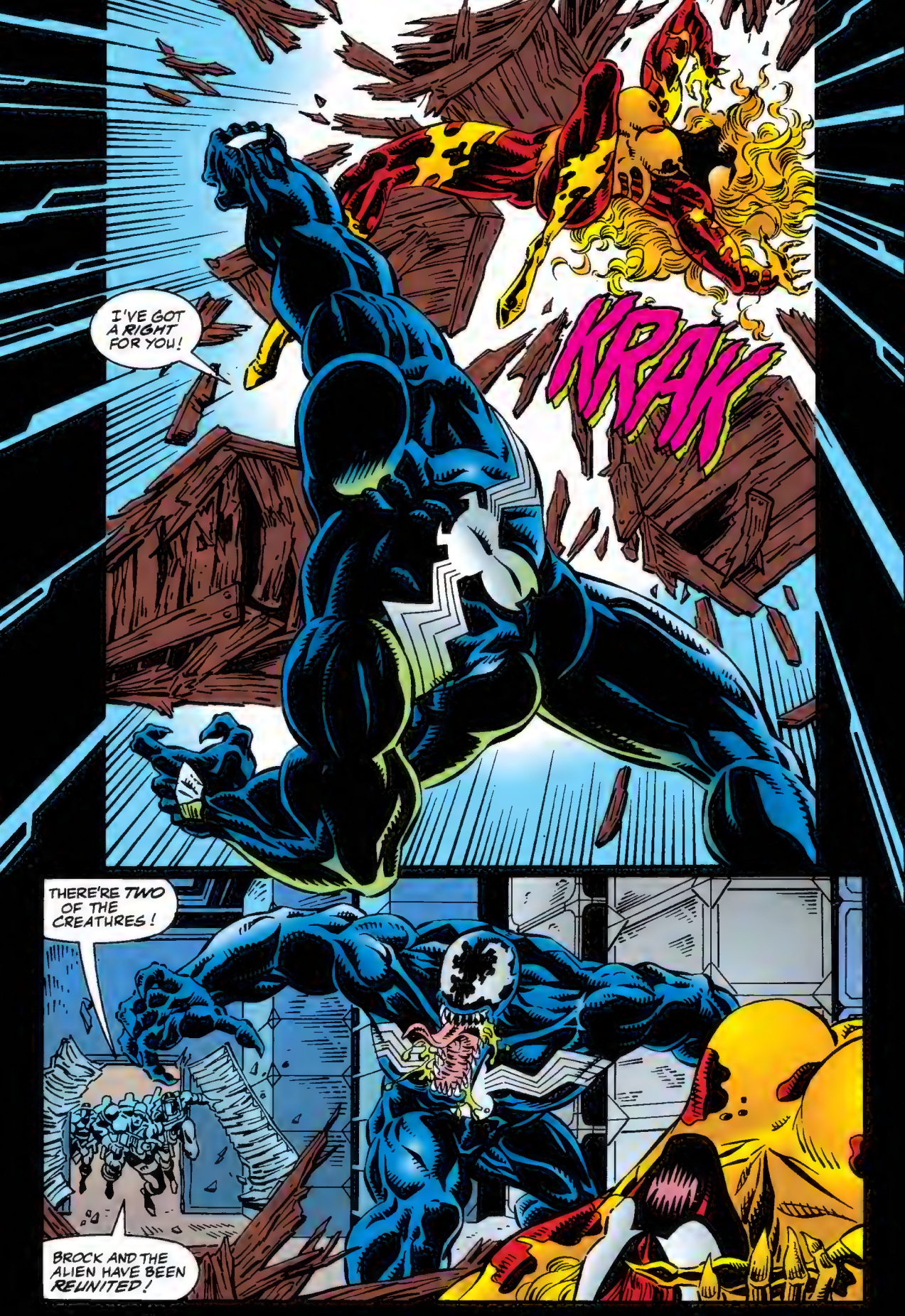
THEN IT WILL ONLY BE ME AND MY OTHER.
eddie

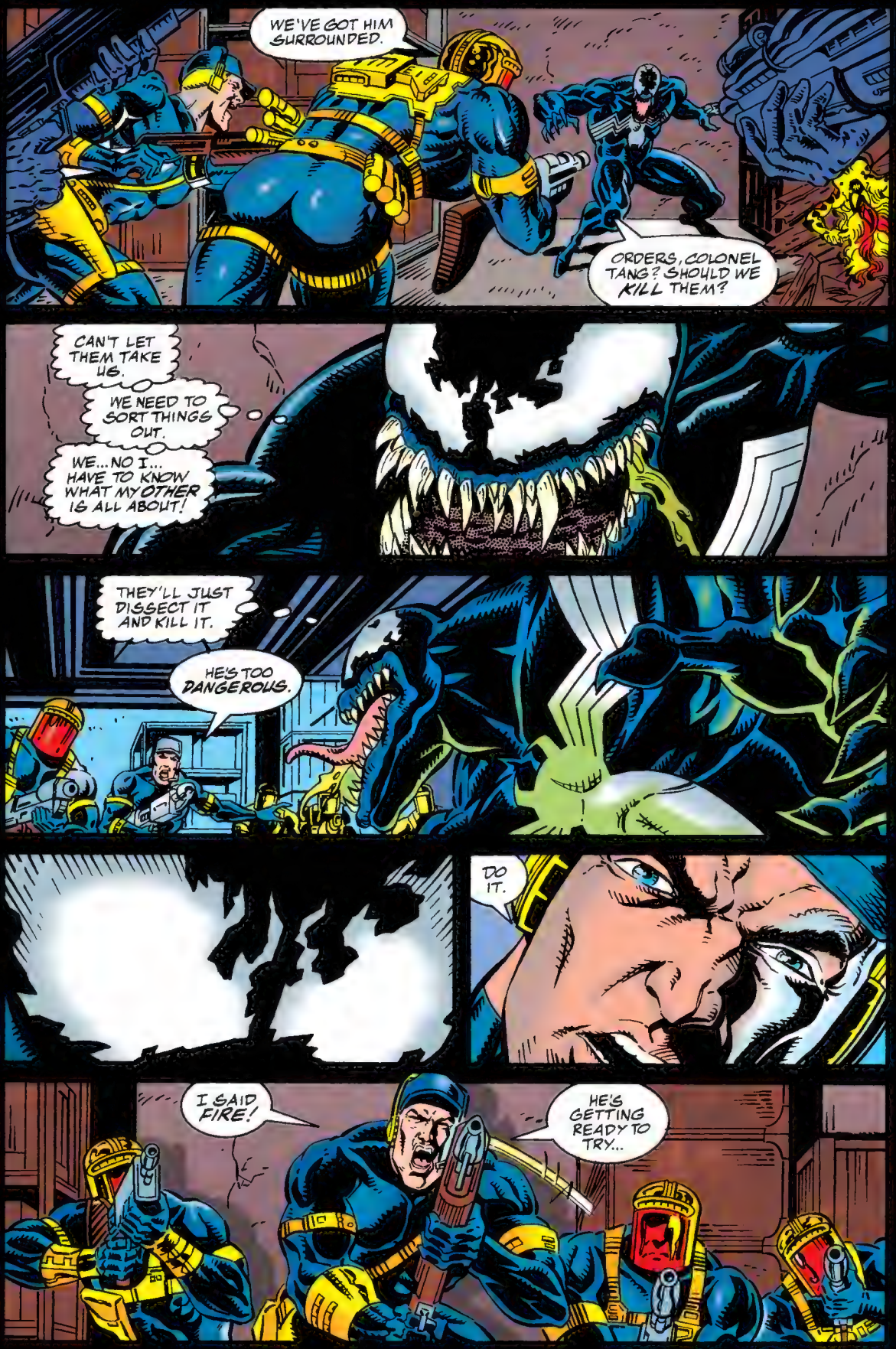
THEN I'LL FINISH IT... THE WORLD WILL BE PURGED OF THIS ABOMINATION.
knife


danger
no

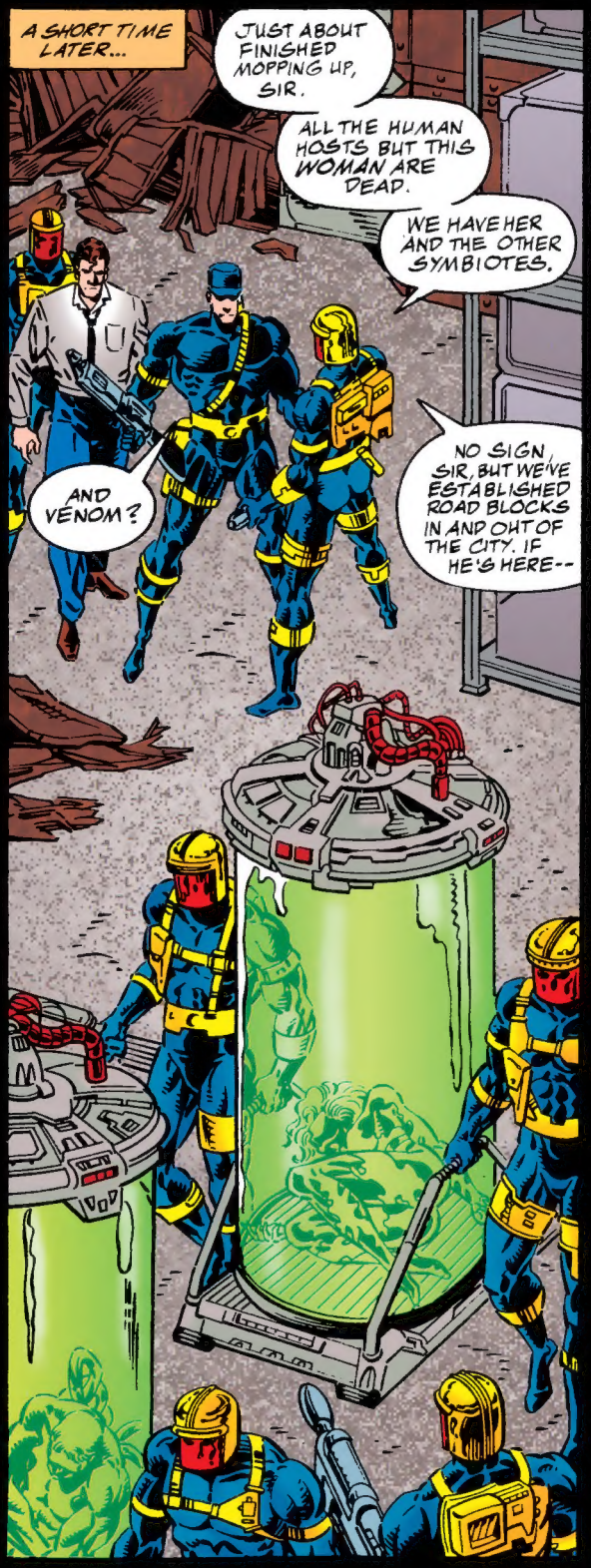

We are one again
We are whole
WE ARE VENOM!

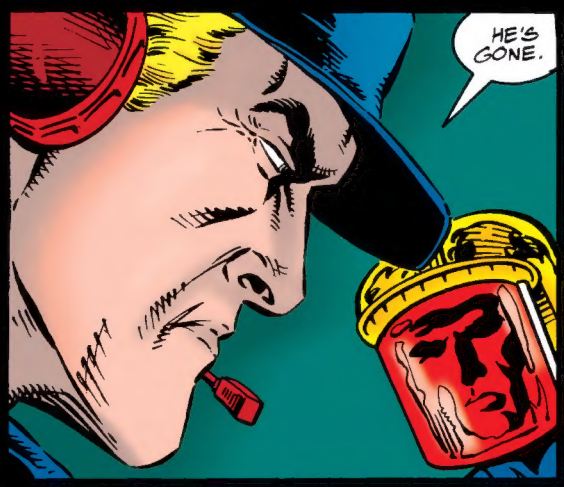
DIE MONSTER!
SORRY, LADY! WE'RE NO LONGER IN THE MOOD FOR DYING!
AND WE'RE FEELING MORE THAN A LITTLE CRANKY RIGHT NOW.
YOU MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THE OTHERS NEEDING TO DIE, BUT...
...GUESS WHO I THINK WE NEED TO START WITH?
I HAVE RIGHT ON MY SIDE, VENOM!


I'VE GOT A RIGHT FOR YOU!
KRAK
THERE'RE TWO OF THE CREATURES!
BROCK AND THE ALIEN HAVE BEEN REUNITED!


WE'VE GOT HIM SURROUNDED.
ORDERS, COLONEL TANG? SHOULD WE KILL THEM?
CAN'T LET THEM TAKE US.
WE NEED TO SORT THINGS OUT.
WE... NO I... HAVE TO KNOW WHAT MY OTHER IS ALL ABOUT!
THEY'LL JUST DISSECT IT AND KILL IT.
HE'S TOO DANGEROUS.
DO IT.
I SAID FIRE!
HE'S GETTING READY TO TRY...

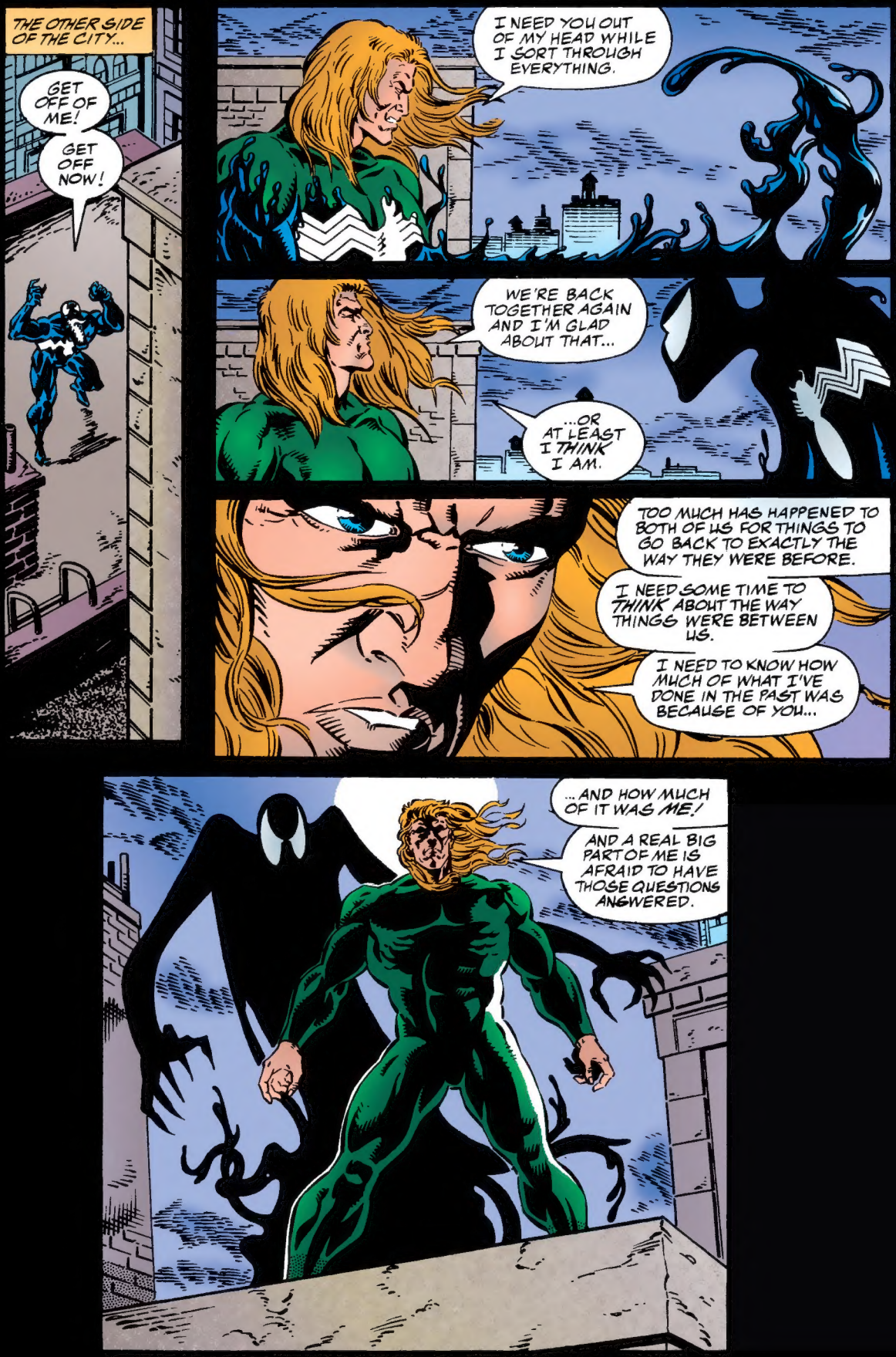
...SOMETHING!
WHERE'D HE GO?
HE'S IN CAMOUFLAGE MODE.
FIRE AT WILL. RANDOM BURSTS!
JUST HIT SOMETHING!
WHAT THE--
UGPH!
WE DIDN'T KILL HIM!
MAYBE WE'RE NOT ALL BAD.
MAYBE.


A SHORT TIME LATER...
JUST ABOUT FINISHED MOPPING UP, SIR.
ALL THE HUMAN HOSTS BUT THIS WOMAN ARE DEAD.
WE HAVE HER AND THE OTHER SYMBIOTES.
AND VENOM?
NO SIGN, SIR, BUT WE'VE ESTABLISHED ROAD BLOCKS IN AND OUT OF THE CITY. IF HE'S HERE--


HE'S GONE.

ELLIS! YOU'RE OUT OF HERE.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN... AND I ESPECIALLY DON'T WANT TO READ A WORD OF THIS IN THE BUGLE.
IF I DO...

NO NEED FOR THREATS, COLONEL.
THIS ISN'T THE STORY I WANTED.
BUT SOMEDAY ME, BROCK AND A TAPE RECORDER ARE GOING TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A HEART-TO-HEART.


THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CITY...
GET OFF OF ME!
GET OFF NOW!
I NEED YOU OUT OF MY HEAD WHILE I SORT THROUGH EVERYTHING.
WE'RE BACK TOGETHER AGAIN AND I'M GLAD ABOUT THAT...
...OR AT LEAST I THINK I AM.
TOO MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO BOTH OF US FOR THINGS TO GO BACK TO EXACTLY THE WAY THEY WERE BEFORE.
I NEED SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT THE WAY THINGS WERE BETWEEN US.
I NEED TO KNOW HOW MUCH OF WHAT I'VE DONE IN THE PAST WAS BECAUSE OF YOU...
...AND HOW MUCH OF IT WAS ME!
AND A REAL BIG PART OF ME IS AFRAID TO HAVE THOSE QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

MAXIMUM VENOM

Readers will see a lot more of Venom this year as Group Editor Danny Fingeroth commits his creative resources to the task of bringing more consistency to the different **VENOM** limited series. "Venom is the first character, really, to get his own monthly series of limited series," Fingeroth noted. "Over the last year we've let different creative teams take the Lethal Protector through his paces, and the results have been great. Now, after the last of these 'rotating creator' mini-series, we'll be assigning writer Howard (**SPIDER-MAN, GHOST RIDER**) Mackie to chronicle Venom's tales on a regular basis. The format will stay the same, and each story arc will be self-contained as its own limited series, but Howard will be building themes and supporting characters that will appear from one arc to the next, giving the character even more consistency."

Before Howard takes over, there is one more all-star cast of creators taking a crack at the character. The first issue of **VENOM: THE MACE**, a three-issue limited series by writer Carl Potts (**PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL**) and artists Liam Sharp (**DEATH'S HEAD II**) and Bill Reinhold (**PUNISHER**) is currently on the stands. Potts is no stranger to the character, having written the **VENOM/PUNISHER** "Funeral Pyre" limited series, but **VENOM: THE MACE** will be a first for penciler Sharp, who has primarily drawn for Marvel U.K. in the past.

"Mace" refers to a new character who Potts describes as amoral. "Mace is a genetically engineered trained killer who's lived his entire life away from society. Now circumstances have thrust him onto the streets and he's forced to live and survive in a world he cannot relate to on a basic level. He's not immoral in that he chooses to be bad; he really has no point of reference to base his judgements on." Mace's background will be of little concern to Venom, who sees Mace as a threat to the innocents Venom has sworn to protect.

Mackie's first story arc, following in June, will be entitled **VENOM: NIGHTS OF VENGEANCE**. This four-issue limited series will be drawn by Ron (**SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED**) Lim and inked by legendary inker Al Milgrom (**THUNDERSTRIKE**). This series will bring Venom into conflict with Vengeance, the character who recently took over as the Spirit of Vengeance in **GHOST RIDER**.

Marvel Age #137 article excerpt by **JERRY A. NOVICK**

THE LETHAL PROTECTOR CONTINUES HIS SYMBIOTIC CRUSADE!

He may be the most fearsome antihero in comics, but the bounty hunter Mace and the Sunrise Society may well bring an end to Eddie Brock's new dawn! If not, perhaps the demonic vigilante Vengeance will be Venom's undoing when the two dark warriors are targeted by the Stalkers! Then again, Venom might end up caught in the familiar yet different web of the amazing, spectacular... Scarlet Spider? One way or another, Eddie and his other half are heading for some separation anxiety. But while the alien parasite begins a quest to reunite with Brock, five symbiotic spawns of Venom get to him first! Is this the end of a fearsome friendship?

Collecting *Venom: The Mace #1-3, Venom: Night's of Vengeance #1-4, Web of Spider-Man (1985) #118-119, Spider-Man (1990) #52-53* and *Venom: Separation Anxiety #1-4* — written by Carl Potts, Howard Mackie and Terry Kavanagh; and illustrated by Liam Sharp, Ron Lim, Steven Butler, Tom Lyle and Ron Randall.

MARVEL